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CONFIDENTIAL.

PART XVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

August 1877.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XVI.

No. 1.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 58. Political.)

Erzeroom, July 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from two letters received here from the American missionaries at Van and Bitlis, giving some further accounts of outrages perpetrated by Koords in those districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

The Rev. G. Knapp to Consul Zohrab.

(Extract.)

Bitlis, June 28, 1877.

OUR markets continue to be closed. The Motkanli Koords one day this week marched armed to our prison and released one of their number who had been two months imprisoned for murdering an Armenian. That night they had planned in force to plunder one part of the town, but they were prevented.

It seems that one of the influential Turks had notified the nomadic Koords in our mountains, who that night came down armed to oppose the Motkanlis. The latter had got wind of it and fled, not one to be found.

The nomadics had told the citizens that they (the citizens) were their customers, and bought the produce, &c., they brought into the city, and that, therefore, they would protect them, and they might open their shops. Yesterday they opened their shops, but there occurred a quarrel between these nomadic Koords and some of the Turks, so the latter, as well as the Christians, closed their shops. Yesterday 480 cavalry arrived from the south, and they said 1,000 more would arrive to-day. We have not learned their destination. I expect some of them attempted to plunder, from the reports of some hundred or more guns we heard at midnight.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Rev. H. B. Barnum to Consul Zohrab.

(Extract.)

Van, July 2, 1877.

THERE has been fighting at Bayazid, but we are in ignorance as to the exact results. Seventy prisoners have been brought in. The small Russian garrison left at Bayazid shut itself up in the barracks, and the Koords (so the story is told by

Armenians here), because they were repulsed with considerable slaughter in their attempt to storm the barracks, wreaked their vengeance on the non-combatants of the city. It is related to me as from the letter of an eye-witness, that they seized young children by their hair with one hand, and cut their throats with the other; that they ravished women, then murdered them; that they broke into the house of a leading Mussulman, where forty Christian families had been received for protection, and killed every one, including the worthy house-owner. I cannot vouch for these stories, further than to say that Turks admit that they killed non-combatants, both Moslem and Christian.

What the state of affairs at Bayazid is now I know not. One story is that the Turkish troops brought up their cannon and demolished the barracks, and another that the arrival of heavy Russian reinforcements prevented their doing so.

I yesterday saw a reliable man, just from Bashkala. He says the villages there are all deserted. The Koords from the Garan region, Sheikh Aboodallah's men, passed through without doing any serious injury, but Koords from Persia have come and stripped every Christian village, with the exception of Bashkala itself, where the Kaimakam is. I have a list of about twenty villages there, wholly or in part Armenian, and he says that they are all deserted but one, to which a few have returned.

Everything was taken, and the villagers were literally stripped, leaving not a rag to cover their nakedness.

Many have fled to Persia, and some are seeking an asylum among neighbouring Koords.

Life was generally spared, but in the Elbak (*i.e.*, Bashkala) region, there have been this year seventeen (I think it was) murders.

No. 2.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 86. Political.)

Scutari, July 11, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I am about to start immediately for Orialuka, viâ Spuz, the Prince of Montenegro having invited me to visit him there. I shall most likely reach Orialuka to-morrow afternoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 3.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 90. Political.)

Cattaro, July 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I am on my way back to Scutari.

Through the advice of M. Yonine, the Russian Consul-General, who supports a war policy, the Prince of Montenegro, although he knows that he is unable to carry out any offensive operations likely to have the smallest results, feels bound to maintain hostilities.

I have had the honour of forwarding a full report to your Lordship by post.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 4.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 92. Political.)

Scutari, July 19, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 88, Political, of the 15th instant, I have had the honour of reporting to your Lordship that M. Speyer, the Secretary of M. Yonine, the Russian

Agent in Montenegro, possesses the confidence of his chief, and also as M. Speyer was the person whom General Ignatiew called to Constantinople during the Conference to give him *viva voce* information on Montenegro and North Albania, perhaps your Lordship will not consider the following summary of some of his statements to me during my recent visit to Cettigné quite unworthy of being communicated to your Lordship.

M. Speyer alluded to my suggestion, published in the Parliamentary Turkish Papers No. 1 of this year, under No. 862, by which I advocate the cession of Spuz and Podgoritza to Montenegro, and said that I evidently based my arguments on the belief in a definitive settlement of the Montenegrin question. This, he hinted, might be possible, but was not to be permitted. The present war between Russia and Turkey was not going to see the final arrangement of the Eastern question, and so all its sores must be left in a running state.

I said that Prince Nicholas, who had also alluded to my recommendation, was of a different opinion; for he told me that he had determined that the present was to be the final struggle, and that the rattle of his rifles should be heard on his mountains as long as the rivers Drin and Bojana were not his frontiers.

M. Speyer answered that the question was not one of what the Prince had determined, but what Russia had decided. If the present war should be successful, Montenegro would have its southern frontiers formed either by the Moratcha or Sem, probably the former, the Lake Islands, the western half of the waters of the Lake from the south of the islands, and the right bank of the Bojana up to its mouth. This would include Antivari and Dulcigno, and would be a large slice enough to prevent Montenegrin disappointment.

I pointed out that this demarcation, besides incorporating Antivari and Dulcigno, the latter a small maritime town inhabited almost entirely by Mohammedans, would bring Montenegro to the edge of Scutari itself, and place the town at the mercy of its new neighbour, as the mountain Tarabosh, forming a portion of the right bank of the Bojana, completely dominates Scutari and its fortress.

M. Speyer said that there were such things as Austrian and Italian susceptibilities, and by ostensibly refusing the cession of Scutari to Montenegro these could be lulled; whilst hereafter, whenever it might be desired to use pressure on the Albanians, their friends, or their suitors, it could be easily exercised from the commanding position that will have been secured for Montenegro.

M. Speyer's subordinate position and the startling frankness of his assertions at first sight remove all importance from the expression of his opinions, but, as I have had the honour of stating in former despatches, my intercourse with him whilst he was Acting Russian Consul here enabled me to ascertain that he possessed the confidence of his superiors, and was and is employed in many intricate affairs, which have necessarily endowed him with a considerable knowledge of the Russian policy in Montenegro and the neighbouring countries.

The safest course for Turkey to pursue when the time arrives for coming to an arrangement with Montenegro will be to give the Principality a very liberal accession of territory, whether it be demanded or not by Russia or Austria; so that Prince Nicholas may learn to feel that he holds something of which he may be deprived. Now, on his rocky fastnesses, he can be bought, by whatever ambition has the money to spend, to throw disorder in the countries around him; but the day that he will hold a vulnerable town or two, and fertile plains that may be ravaged by hostile troops, he and his people will understand that their interests are not those of mere "condottieri."

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 5.

Consul Reade to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Varna, July 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive Lord Tenterden's despatch No. 5 of the 28th ultimo, informing me of a telegram from your Lordship which I have never received, and directing me "to remain at my post unless the other Consuls left."

My colleagues all left Rustchuk for Varna on the 27th ultimo, and not one of

them has since returned. I myself did not leave till the day after, when the Director of the Varna railway informed me that the trains were to cease running up to Rustchuk. I consequently came to Varna, was called to Constantinople by Mr. Layard, and then proceeded, by his direction, to the Kustendji district.

I then returned to Rustchuk, where I remained from the 8th to the 14th instant, and on my return to Varna I found a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador of the 11th instant, directing me not to leave Rustchuk even should the Russians occupy the place, unless, in my judgment, I might run any personal risk in remaining.

I had already left for the reasons already given, and I considered that, were I to return, should the Russians invest Rustchuk, I should most probably have been shut in, and thus find myself in a position in which I should have been of no further use to Her Majesty's Government. To telegraph to Mr. Layard was impracticable, as I am not allowed to do so in cypher; consequently, as I required instructions on various other important points, and knowing that I should only lose a couple of days, I deemed it best to run over again to Constantinople and obtain the definite instructions of Her Majesty's Ambassador. I did so, and have been positively instructed not to get shut up in Rustchuk, which, from my construction of Mr. Layard's last despatch, I might have incurred.

I am returning to Rustchuk to-morrow, if possible, and shall carry out the instructions of your Lordship and Her Majesty's Ambassador to the best of my ability, without allowing myself to be cut off from all communication with this and Constantinople.

I am informed that my having got the police brought back to Rustchuk has had the best effect, as the Christians have since been perfectly tranquillized.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 6.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 17, 1877.*

I HAVE just received from Mr. Trifilli, the Consular Agent at Rethymo, a report describing an unprovoked assault made by about thirty Mussulmans belonging to the two villages of Marula and Hagia Paraskevi near Rethymo, on the Christian inhabitants of a neighbouring village called Adeles, containing about fifty houses.

It appears that on the afternoon of the 12th instant two Mussulmans entered the last-named village brandishing knives and cursing Christ and his religion. The inhabitants prudently kept out of their way by shutting themselves up in their houses, only one young man who remained in the street being wounded, and who is now in hospital. When the people saw that blood was drawn they succeeded in disarming the aggressor, who, with his comrade, ran back to his village, and presently returned with thirty others armed with guns, knives, and sticks, but found all the people shut up in their houses. A solitary zaptieh who was in the village, after vainly endeavouring to make the men disperse, ran off to Rethymo, to call the chief of the police, who came in the course of the night with an armed force, the rioters decamping on the news of their approach.

The next morning the Mutessarif of Rethymo arrived in the village, and having arrested the ringleader who wounded the young man, has proceeded to make an inquiry into the cause of the disturbance. Mr. Trifilli, who was on the spot before the Mutessarif Pasha, knows of no special cause which could have created it, and I fear it must be attributed to the animosity of the Mussulmans against their Christian neighbours, which is so marked a feature just now, and which is not kept in check by a wholesome fear of the authorities.

It remains to be seen whether the latter will make an example of the authors of the assault.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 7.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 46. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 21, 1877.*

A SERIOUS dispute has arisen between the Patriarchate of Constantinople and the popular governing bodies, called Demogerontias, which represent the laity of the Greek Church in Candia and Canea in matters ecclesiastical.

When the prayer ordered by the Patriarch to be read in Churches, for the triumph of the Turkish arms in the war now raging, was received in Crete, it created universal indignation, and it was intimated to the Metropolitan of this See, who resides in Candia, that the laity would not permit so impious a prayer to be uttered in any sacred edifice belonging to their Church. The Metropolitan, who is unusually independent for one of his class, at once agreed to be guided by the wishes of his flock, and it is supposed that in consequence of this resolve the Vali of Crete made a complaint against him to the Porte, which led to his being superseded. The Patriarch sent another ecclesiastic to take his office, but on his arrival in Candia on the 9th instant, the Demogerontia refused to acknowledge him, whereupon the week following the new Metropolitan came on here, where the Governor-General received him with unusual honours, causing him to be met at the quay by the Chief of Police with a body of gendarmes and a richly caparisoned horse. Instead of proceeding straight to the church or to the episcopal residence as custom prescribes in such cases, his Grace went first to the konak, and there did obeisance. This conduct did not contribute to raise him in the popular estimation, and the Demogerontia here also has confirmed the decision of their colleagues in Candia. The new Metropolitan relies on force, and declares himself determined to occupy the See which the Patriarch has assigned to him.

It is believed that the people will not oppose his entry into church to-morrow, but will testify by their absence their disapprobation of the policy which sent him here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 8.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 47. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, July 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Vali of this island, Samih Pasha, left this morning for the village of Vamos, which is the head-quarters of the district of Sphakia, a district which embraces the sub-districts of Sphakia Proper, Apocorona, and Arghyropolis, and which is governed by a Christian, Mutessarif Pasha. His Excellency is supposed to have undertaken the journey in order to communicate some information to the four Christian Sphakian Deputies in the late General Assembly. He first summoned them to Canea, but fearing treachery they refused to come, but it does not follow that their fears as to his Excellency's intentions will be overcome by his going half-way to meet them. Sphakia is becoming more and more the Cave of Adullum of Crete, whither the discontented and outlawed flock as to a place of safety. It is considered a point of honour with the Sphakians in these times to shield from pursuit all who take refuge in their territory, and even to supply them with such hard fare as the mountaineers themselves are content with.

The grain harvest is now nearly completed throughout the island, and it is remarked in this neighbourhood that all the Mussulman farmers are bringing their produce into the town, leaving behind neither seed, corn, nor fodder for their live-stock. The outbreak of the insurrection seems to be considered but a question of time, and were it not for the paramount authority possessed by the Greek Government over the revolutionary Committees, there is little doubt but that the rising would have begun before now. The Cretans are only kept back by the need of arms, for which they are dependant on the Committees.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 9.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 812.) *Therapia, July 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

MR. LONG, whose name must be well known to your Lordship as connected with an important work for the relief of the Bulgarian Christians who suffered in consequence of the events of last year, arrived at Constantinople a few days ago from Tatar-Bazardjik. I have requested him to give me his impressions, in writing, of the state of the Christian population of the districts with which he is acquainted. He has been good enough to address me a letter on the subject, a copy of which I had the honour to inclose. The statement as to the feelings of the Bulgarians in the present war agree with those that I have received from other sources.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Long to Mr. Layard.

Pera, le 20 Juillet, 1877.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer qu'à cause de ma santé je viens de quitter pour quelques jours mon poste à Tatar-Bazardjik en Bulgarie, où depuis sept mois j'ai été occupé de porter des secours divers aux victimes de la dernière insurrection, et maintenant je m'empresse de vous communiquer, suivant votre demande, mes impressions sur l'état actuel des affaires dans cette région.

Ces impressions, je dois le dire à votre Excellence, sont formées après une étude sérieuse faite sur mes ordres par un membre de mon personnel pendant le mois de Mai et après mes propres observations pendant les six semaines qui viennent de s'écouler.

Ce monsieur est un ingénieur civil Français qui a longtemps demeuré en Turquie au service de l'Etat, parlant le Turc et ayant une connaissance intime du peuple de la Bulgarie, ayant été occupé de la construction de chemins de fer dans cette contrée. Pendant sa tournée, qui a compris tout le pays qui a été la scène des atrocités de l'année dernière, il était accompagné de mon premier drogman Bulgare, homme de confiance qui m'avait déjà servi fidèlement depuis six mois et qui dans mon service avait appris à se faire de la question Bulgare une opinion toute différente de celle qu'il avait apportée de Constantinople. De ces deux messieurs j'ai reçu des rapports distincts et minutieux, chacun se tenant responsable de ses propres opinions. Mais sans entrer dans des détails inutiles je puis tout brièvement résumer pour votre Excellence les résultats auxquels ils sont arrivés chacun de sa part, en vous racontant tout simplement les résultats de mes propres observations, car ces deux délégués et moi nous sommes parfaitement d'accord sur l'état actuel de cette population.

Leur mission aussi bien que mes propres études n'avaient pour but que de me renseigner exactement sur le tempérament du peuple, soit Chrétien soit Musulman, envers leur Gouvernement et entr'eux, de calmer les esprits et ensuite de m'informer sur leur état matériel et sur l'effet produit par les larges secours qui leur ont été prodigués pendant l'hiver.

Les conclusions auxquelles je me suis arrêté sur cette dernière question sont que beaucoup de bien leur a été fait, que la population Bulgare est comparativement dans une prospérité renaissante; leur récolte a été abondante, et que si les horreurs de la guerre n'étaient pas venues dévaster de nouveau le pays, la population Bulgare aurait pu surmonter bientôt tous les désastres de l'année dernière.

Elle se plaint comme toujours des impôts qu'elle trouve naturellement cette année plus lourds qu'auparavant, quoique le Gouvernement se soit montré disposé à être aussi indulgent que possible, malgré la crise financière que traverse le pays.

Mais il est inutile d'entretenir votre Excellence plus longuement sur cette question, ce qui vous intéresse sans doute davantage c'est de connaître la condition des esprits de cette population relativement aux événements de la guerre qui est aujourd'hui à leurs portes.

Avant de traiter cette question, je dois informer votre Excellence que dans la Bulgarie au sud des Balkans, nous avons trouvé, même avant la déclaration de guerre, de grandes inquiétudes de la part de la population Bulgare, et une méfiance persistante de la population Musulmane, pendant que les Turcs faisaient prétexte que, étant en minorité, il fallait toujours se reposer sur leurs armes. Cette population Bulgare s'est

montrée néanmoins disposée à rester tranquille et à s'écarter autant que possible de ce qui se passait au delà des Balkans. Elle a toujours écouté attentivement nos paroles, qui étaient celles de la paix et de la concorde; elle nous a fait des promesses solennelles de suivre nos conseils.

Je ne puis mieux renseigner votre Excellence à ce rapport que de vous donner copie de la fin d'un discours que j'adressais, le 8 courant aux habitants d'Ollouk-Keui, à l'occasion de l'inauguration d'une école que je viens de construire dans cette ville, ainsi que de la réponse qui m'a été faite par cette population. Ces pièces vous trouverez ci-jointes.

Il faut ajouter cependant que d'après de sévieuses études du caractère Bulgare, je n'ai plus grande confiance dans ses promesses. Je crains qu'aussitôt les Russes arrivés de ce côté des Balkans toutes ces grandes résolutions et promesses ne disparaissent comme un nuage. Mais ce que je crains davantage est qu'un grand malheur les frappera avant que les envahisseurs puissent arriver à la défense et cela sans faute actuelle commise de leur part.

D'au delà des Balkans les nouvelles nous arrivent d'une manière indéniable qu'au fur et mesure que l'armée Russe avance les Bulgares, ou des misérables se disant Bulgares, massacrent les malheureux Musulmans, des gens inoffensifs, hommes, femmes, et enfants, fuyards dont le triste sort les rend dignes de pitié. Mais vraies ou fausses ces nouvelles se propagent et sont crues partout au sud des Balkans. Ce qui m'effraye donc c'est de voir les atrocités de l'année dernière se renouveler même sur une échelle plus grande encore, le pays étant actuellement occupé par un grand nombre de Zeibeks, Teherkess, &c., troupes indisciplinées, qui ne désireront pas mieux que de se joindre à la population Musulmane dans l'accomplissement de ces tristes actes.

Les Bulgares du nord, ou plutôt ceux qui les mènent, auraient dû réfléchir qu'au delà des Balkans il existe un grand nombre de leurs frères de race et qu'ils exposent ces derniers à subir de sanglantes représailles—représailles qui ne sont jamais excusables, mais qui peuvent en quelque sorte se comprendre dans les circonstances aussi terribles que celles que nous traversons—représailles contre lesquelles le Gouvernement même, avec la meilleure volonté du monde, pourrait se trouver impuissant d'abriter cette population Bulgare.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) JAMES LONG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Conclusion of the Speech addressed by Mr. Long to the Inhabitants of Ollouk-Keui, July 8, 1877.

JE sens que comme ami je manquerais à mon devoir envers vous si je ne profitais de cette occasion pour faire allusion à la crise que le pays traverse en ce moment, une époque critique pour tous et particulièrement pour les Chrétiens.

Votre position n'est pas exempte de dangers, mais je crois que vous pouvez éviter le péril en restant simplement calmes et tranquilles et en ne montrant aucune sympathie pour les envahisseurs. Je vous adjure en conséquence de faire la sourde oreille à ceux qui vous conseillent en ce moment une seconde insurrection.

Vous êtes sans armes, sans discipline, sans chefs ayant aucune idée des affaires militaires. Le plus léger symptôme de révolte de votre part vous conduirait donc inévitablement une autre fois comme des moutons à la boucherie. Si les Russes veulent vous libérer du joug de votre Gouvernement actuel qu'ils le fassent, mais ne prenez ni action ni part dans l'affaire. Je vous fais cette prière comme votre meilleur ami.

Je veux encore vous faire remarquer que si vous deveniez jamais les sujets des Czars de la Russie je souhaite sincèrement que vous trouviez leur joug plus léger et leur fardeau moins lourd que celui que vous avez eu à supporter jusqu'à ce jour; mais je dois vous dire tout franchement que je crains beaucoup que votre sort en ce cas ne devienne pas meilleur, connaissant le sort des paysans Russes même, et ne croyant nullement les professions du Czar quand il vous promet des libertés civiles et religieuses qu'il refuse cruellement d'accorder à ses propres sujets, les braves et malheureux Polonais.

Je dois également vous dire qu'en devenant sujets Russes vous ne serez plus

exempts comme maintenant du service militaire compulsoire, le plus cruel joug peut-être qu'un peuple est forcé de subir.

Je crains davantage encore que l'ambition de la Russie ne soit d'être la maîtresse de Constantinople et du Bosphore, plutôt que la libératrice des Chrétiens.

Je crois que votre ami l'Archimandrite approuvera entièrement les sentiments que je viens de vous exprimer.

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Reply of the Inhabitants of Ollouk-Keui to the Speech of Mr. Long.

Mes Frères et Sœurs,

NOUS avons l'honneur de nous trouver de nouveau aujourd'hui en présence de notre bienfaiteur venu ici pour essuyer les larmes des malheureux.

Nous avons raison, mes chers compatriotes, d'être joyeux en voyant au milieu de nous celui qui, poussé par une pure philanthropie, a laissé sa patrie, méprisé la tranquillité nécessaire à sa santé et à son âge, et qui après de longs et pénibles voyages est venu dans notre pauvre pays. Il voyage d'un village à l'autre dans le seul but de secourir l'humanité souffrante et de sauver la vie à des milliers de malheureux.

Après avoir secouru tant de villages dans ces contrées il a étendu aussi sa main secourable sur notre ville. Ici aussi il nous a trouvés affamés et il nous a nourris; il nous a trouvé nus, et il nous a vêtus. Est-ce là tout ce qu'il a fait pour nous? Non! Les événements de l'année passée ont détruit nos écoles et nos enfants seraient restés sans éducation, mais notre bienfaiteur voyant notre situation nous a construit cette magnifique école pour 800 enfants, où nous nous trouvons réunis aujourd'hui. Mes frères et mes sœurs, il est de notre devoir maintenant de montrer notre reconnaissance pour tous les bienfaits dont il nous a comblés. Je regrette beaucoup notre faiblesse et notre impuissance de lui témoigner verbalement notre gratitude. Il ne faut cependant pas désespérer. Nous avons d'autres moyens de lui prouver notre reconnaissance. Ces moyens sont de suivre exactement les conseils paternels qui nous ont été donnés tout-à-l'heure de sa part. Ce sera la meilleure et la seule chose que nous pourrons faire pour lui, et ce sera cela aussi qui le contentera.

Oui, notre cher bienfaiteur, nous allons suivre vos recommendations, qui sont pour notre bien, dans notre intérêt, et que personne ne pourra jamais oublier. La paix est ce que chacun désire de tout son cœur, et ce sont vos conseils que nous suivrons tous sans exception.

Permettez-moi en finissant, notre cher bienfaiteur, de vous promettre au nom de mes concitoyens que nous tiendrons nos promesses. Je répète encore que nous sommes faibles et impuissants de vous montrer toute notre reconnaissance, mais maintenant et toujours nous élèverons nos prières vers Dieu et nous dirons: Vive Sa Majesté le Sultan Abd-ul-Hamid! vive Mr. James Long, notre bienfaiteur, et ses amis!

No. 10.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 813.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 21, 1877.

I RECEIVED this morning, from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a telegram to the Porte from the Turkish Minister at Athens, stating that the Hellenic Government, yielding to the pressure of public opinion, which was excited by alarming newspaper reports concerning the passage of the Balkans by the Russian forces and their advance upon Adrianople, was taking extraordinary measures to hasten preparations for war, and to send troops to the frontiers. Photiades Bey urges the Porte to send regular troops without delay to the border provinces. He declares that the Hellenes are unanimous in their determination to raise an "Hellenic question" before the conclusion of peace with Russia, and that the signal for an attack upon Turkey will be in Crete, where everything is prepared for an outbreak.

I have already informed your Lordship that I had been led to believe, by the language of M. Coundouriotti and of the leading Greeks here, that if the Russians crossed the Balkans Hellenic troops would immediately invade the southern provinces of Turkey in Europe. I gather, from the way in which the Greek Minister spoke to

me on this subject last evening, that he considers that the time is nearly come for Greece to commit this act of aggression on her neighbour, and that she is seeking for an ostensible cause of quarrel with the Porte. He appeared to have found one, for he spoke to me in an excited and boisterous manner about an attack which, he declared, had been made by Turkish troops on the Greek Consulate at Adrianople, and of the outrages with which the Greeks in that city were threatened. I happened to see this morning a copy of the telegram from the Greek Consul to M. Coundouriotti, describing the incident of which the latter had given so exaggerated an account. It merely stated that a Turkish soldier had run after a Greek whom he accused of insulting him, and who took refuge in the Greek Consulate. The soldier wanted to follow him, but was prevented by the appearance at the door of the Consul. The Governor having been apprized of what had occurred, took immediate measures to prevent any violation of the Consulate.

For some days past I have observed that M. Coundouriotti's tone towards the Porte has very much changed. He, no doubt, believes that Turkey is now in a state to be affronted with impunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 11.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 815.)
My Lord,

Therapia, July 21, 1877.

MR. CONSUL BLUNT writes to me from Kyzanlik:—"Affairs in these Balkan districts are assuming an alarming aspect. The Turks are as much alarmed as the Bulgarians, if not more so. The Bulgarians are afraid that the Turks, if successful, will massacre them, while the Turks attribute the same intention to the Bulgarians should the Russians be victorious. The statements furnished by Mr. Calvert go far to confirm the truth of Russian and Bulgarian atrocities. If the Russians continue their present plan of warfare—that is, to disarm the Turks of the villages they occupy, and then allow the Bulgarian peasants to turn upon them and massacre them—then we must not be surprised to hear of dreadful acts of retaliation on the part of the Turks, which very likely is the very effect they are intended to produce. I have assisted the Kaïmakam and Cadi in the efforts they are making to calm the alarm and excitement of the Turks, and to remove the distrust between the latter and the Bulgarians. I do not apprehend a fanatical outbreak in the town itself, and, although the disturbed and dangerous state of public feeling has not very much abated, still there is evidently a growing disposition among the leading men of both communities to support the authorities in their efforts to maintain order and tranquillity. On the other hand, the public mind and passions of the Mahometans are very much excited by the presence of numerous fugitives from the villages destroyed by the Russians and Bulgarians. The place is full of them, and their accounts—perhaps much exaggerated—of Russian cruelties, keep the people in a state which at any moment may lead to bloody acts of retaliation in the neighbouring districts."

I have the honour to inclose copy of Mr. Blunt's official report from Kyzanlik upon the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 11.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Kyzanlik, July 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I arrived at this place (two hours from the foot of the Shipka Pass) yesterday afternoon. I was met by the Kaïmakam, Akif Bey, an hour outside the town, and received from him information, which was afterwards confirmed from other sources here, as to the great excitement and consequent mutual distrust which had been caused among the Mussulman and Christian communities by the news of the passage of the Danube by the Russians, and through the presence in this town of more than 1,000 destitute Turkish refugees from

the other side of the Balkans. These feelings were more especially aggravated by the accounts which some of these fugitives had brought in that morning of the destruction of several Turkish villages, and the massacre of their inhabitants, with circumstances of incredible barbarity, by the Bulgarians under the protection of Cossacks. The flame of animosity has been openly fanned by the expelled Kaïmakam of Selvi, Ismail Bey, a Turk of the old school, and by Saadullah Effendi, the chief notable of that town, a man whose uncompromising character Mr. Consul Reade has, I believe, had occasion to call to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, as has also Mr. Edmund Calvert in his late report on the state of the north Balkan districts.

Saadullah is accompanied by numerous followers of kindred spirit; and the argument of all this set is that if extermination is to be the lot of the Mussulman population, the best they can do is to sell their lives dearly and to the best advantage at once at the expense of the Bulgarians.

After my arrival some of the leading Bulgarians here called upon me, and, in mentioning the present state of public feeling which, at Kyzanlik, is as new and unusual as it is untoward, expressed the hope that, as one known to be a friend to Turks and Bulgarians, I would use my influence in restoring mutual confidence between the two sections of the population. This confidence, they reminded me, had remained unimpaired throughout last year's troubles in the neighbouring districts, and it might therefore fairly be hoped that my endeavours would prove successful.

I may here mention that I became acquainted with several of the notables of Kyzanlik, Turks and Bulgarians, when Vice-Consul at Philippopolis and Adrianople.

This morning all the primates and influential members of the Bulgarian community called upon me, and repeated the same arguments. Their visit was shortly followed by that of the leading Turkish inhabitants, who spontaneously expressed themselves in the same sense, and begged me to use my good offices in effecting the desired object. I need not say how willingly I accepted the task. I at once sent for the principal Bulgarians, and bringing them and the Turkish notables together, effected an interchange between them of the most friendly and cordial assurances. The two sections of notables on separating arranged to hold another meeting this evening, in order to settle the measures to be adopted for the mutual protection of either community, and the maintenance of public order by their common action.

Whilst engaged myself in promoting these important objects, and in receiving and going among the people whom it was useful to see, I instructed Mr. Edmund Calvert to seek out the Turkish refugees above referred to, and to obtain from them the particulars of the atrocities alleged to have been committed in their respective villages. As I have had the honour to state above, it was the reports of these atrocities which chiefly caused the alarm which I found prevailing here and at Eski-Zaghra. I beg to inclose herewith to your Excellency Mr. Calvert's statement of the information furnished by the refugees in question, and taken down by him in writing from their own mouths. I cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of the information thus obtained, but Mr. Calvert tells me that the demeanour of his informants, the care they showed in attending to his injunction to be strictly accurate, and the consistency of the accounts given of the same occurrence by each speaker, were such as to inspire confidence. As regards the tragedy at Balvan in particular, Mr. Calvert does not hesitate to express his belief that the atrocities described by the refugees from that village are, at least in the main, true. On this head the violent and uncontrollable emotion of those poor men, when telling their sad story, could leave, he says, no possibility of doubt on his mind.

Mr. Calvert's statement, as is therein explained, has unavoidably remained incomplete through the excitement caused by the report of the sudden appearance of the Russians in this neighbourhood, and of the burning of the Turkish villages of Yeni-Mahallé and Eshekji, a few hours off.

I had the honour to despatch to your Excellency at 6 o'clock this afternoon, through his Highness the Grand Vizier, a telegram in Turkish, a copy of the English draft of which is herewith inclosed. I hope your Excellency will approve of this channel of communication, as being, indeed, the only one available to me under the circumstances. My telegram to your Excellency reported a fact of the highest military importance—the passage of the Balkans by the vanguard of a Russian column. This force made its way over the mountains last night by a track which leads down to the village of Hain-kioï, and which is not marked on Handtke's elaborate map lately published.

In my last despatch to your Excellency from Yeni-Zaghra, of the 12th instant, I mentioned that a half battalion of troops had been sent to guard the defile in question.

No information has reached the authorities here of any encounter with this detachment. The Russian force was at first estimated vaguely at 5,000 men, a figure subsequently reduced to 1,000 cavalry and 1,000 infantry, with four mountain guns. The latest accounts received speak of this force as marching in the direction of Yeni-Zaghra, if so evidently with the intention of interrupting railway communication between Yamboli and Adrianople.

The Kaïmakam has been in constant telegraphic communication respecting the movements of the Russians with his immediate chief, the Mutessarif of Philipoppolis, with the Governor-General of Adrianople, with Reouf Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the Balkan defences, and with Rassim Pasha, Commandant of the troops in the Shipka Pass.

The result of these communications has been that Houloussi Pasha has been ordered to march towards Hain-kioï with three battalions and two guns, with a view, it is supposed, to cut off the Russian retreat, while other troops are being dispatched, the Kaïmakam tells me, from Adrianople to Yeni-Zaghra to protect the railway there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 11.

Report by Vice-Consul Calvert.

1. *Statement regarding Kazadjik.*

A VILLAGE inhabited exclusively by Turks, containing 130 houses, and distant one hour from Drenovo, two hours from Gabrovo, and six hours from Tirnovo. This statement is made by two fugitives, Ahmedoglu Mehmed, a private in the 1st company of the Tirnovo battalion of zaptiehs, and Mehmedoglu Mehmed, a private in the 2nd company of the same battalion, both inhabitants of Kazadjik.

Both the above informants were at their native village on Sunday last, the 8th of July, when two squadrons of Cossacks came to Drenovo. A number of Bulgarians from Drenovo, with one Hadji Dimitri, a notable of that town, at their head, then came to Kazadjik, and surrounding the village demanded four cows as rations for the Russian troops. The villagers, in token of their perfect submission, gave five cows. The Mukhtar of the village and two Turks who went to deliver them to the Bulgarians were at first detained. After three days the Mukhtar returned, and he told the villagers that one of the men who accompanied him, named Suleiman, had been shot without cause by a patrol, and that the other, Ahmed, was missing. On the same day (Wednesday, 11th instant) Hadji Dimitri returned along with the Bulgarian inhabitants of the Kolybalik (scattered hamlet) which is attached to Kazadjik and others, and collecting all the arms from the Turkish villagers, distributed them among his followers. The Bulgarians then proceeded to plunder the village of Kazadjik, and so thoroughly did this work as to leave nothing but the bare walls and floors. They next took the Turkish women and children apart, and stript them not only of their ornaments (mostly consisting of strings of coins) but of all the clothes which were worth taking. In this way, whilst poorly-clad persons were let alone, the better dressed women and children were left in many cases without a particle of clothing on them. Lastly, the Bulgarians set the village on fire. Some of the inhabitants escaped, but the two eye-witnesses who gave this account saw three or four of the remainder killed, and they suppose that the others shared their fate. The witnesses, however, at this point fled from their place of concealment, a wood close to the village, and made good their escape to Kyzanlik, by the mountain-track near Travna.

Note.—The informants, in answer to my inquiry as to whether there were any attempts to violate women, say that they confine their statement to what they actually witnessed, and that they and those that escaped with them saw no such acts. But as regards the shameful indignities to which the Turkish women were otherwise subjected, they expressly affirm that a certain number of the women who wore fine chemises were literally stript to the skin, and left weeping and wringing their hands in a state of complete nudity.

2. *Statement regarding Balvan.*

A village inhabited exclusively by Turks, containing 200 houses, and distant three hours from Tirnova, on the road to Selvi. This statement is made by Khalilogln Hussein, Mustafa Oglu Abdullah, and Suleiman Oglu Rashid, three fugitive inhabitants of Balvan.

On Saturday morning last (July 7) two squadrons of Cossacks, about 200 strong, coming direct from Sistova, arrived at Balvan. The elders of the village, on hearing of the approach of the Russians, went out to meet them and make their submission. The Cossacks surrounded the village and summoned the inhabitants to deliver up their arms. The demand was immediately complied with, and the Cossacks collected the arms, put them into a waggon, and carried them off to Tirnova. During their stay at Balvan, the officer in command made a requisition of bread and hay, which was readily given, and no less readily paid for. Although the villagers explained that they did not expect payment, the officer insisted on their accepting it, and made them take a Russian gold piece worth 96 piastres. On the following day (Sunday, the 8th instant), two other squadrons of Cossacks arrived from Tirnova, and again surrounded the village. The Russian troops were accompanied on this occasion by a number of Bulgarians from the neighbouring villages, to the number of 2,000 or 3,000. These were armed with hatchets, clubs, and knives, as well as guns and sabres of non-military pattern. The rabble began by driving off all the cattle of the village, and stripping the persons and houses of the defenceless villagers of everything worth taking. They then set the village on fire in many places at once, and fell upon the inhabitants as they attempted to escape, cutting down men, women, and children, and driving them back into the flames. The Cossacks, who formed an outer cordon around the village, looked on quietly whilst these deeds were being perpetrated.

The men who made the above statement contrived to escape by a gully which broke the continuity of the Cossack cordon at one end of the village; others got away at the same time and by the same way, but the informants do not know what became of these, as they afterwards took a different direction. They themselves are the only inhabitants of Balvan who found their way to Kyzanlik, which they reached by a path across the Balkans between Travna and Gabrovo.

Note.—Khalilogln Hussein, who was the first spokesman, began to tell the above story with some composure, but when he came to the crowning catastrophe he broke down and sobbed like a child, and his companions with him. It was some time before he could explain that there had been living with him two of his sisters, whose husbands were serving in the army, and whom he was supporting, and that they and their children and his own family, eleven souls in all, had perished. He saw them being thrown into the flames, the little children with their mothers.

3. *Statement regarding Malkotch.*

A village inhabited exclusively by Turks, and distant two hours from Balvan (above mentioned). This statement is made by Husseinoglu Ibrahim, a fugitive inhabitant of Malkotch.

On Sunday last (July 8) the informant was at his village, and saw Balvan in flames. A fugitive from that village told him that the Russians were there, killing and destroying. Upon that he took to flight. He was informed by some neighbours, who left a little later and afterwards rejoined him, that Malkotch was surrounded by Cossacks just as they had quitted it. What followed he and they do not know.

4. *Information regarding Kestambol.*

A village inhabited exclusively by Turks, and distant hours from

Note.—As to the above village, I am unable to state more than that it is reported to have met at the hands of the Bulgarians with the same fate as Kazadjik. To-day, at the moment when I was expecting the fugitive inhabitants, whom I had sent for in order to obtain the particulars, news was received in the town that the vanguard of the Russian cavalry had passed the Balkans in the night, and was only a few hours off.

In the excitement which followed, the villagers could not be found. I can, therefore, furnish no details of the occurrences at Kestambol.

(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Kyzanlik, July 14, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 11.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Kyzanlik, July* 14, 1877.

I ARRIVED here yesterday, Friday, at 2 P.M., and found the public mind disturbed on account of the Turkish fugitives from the other side of the Balkans, who give details of atrocities committed at Balvan, Malkoteh, and other villages destroyed by the Russians between Tirnovo, Drenovo, Glena, and the Balkans.

To-day, Saturday, at 2 P.M., fugitive peasants from the villages of Yeni-Mahallé and Eshekji (Hamar-Atik), in the Casas of Kyzanlik and Yeni-Zaghra, inhabited exclusively by Mussulmans, came in announcing to the authorities that the vanguard of a Russian column had crossed the Balkans by the defile of Hain-Kioï this morning, and that they burnt the villages in question, killing the inhabitants. Those villages are only four hours distant from the telegraphic line and the railway-station of Yeni-Zaghra. Up to the present time the Kaimakam, the Cadi, and all the Turkish and Christian notables have worked together successfully to maintain order and calm the public mind. The advance of the Russians is probable.

No. 12.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 816.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July* 21, 1877.

M. GASPAR GYLDIZ, a highly respectable Armenian merchant, called upon me this morning, coming straight from Kyzanlik, where he carries on his business. He arrived last night with despatches for me from Mr. Blunt. M. Gyldiz, who is well acquainted with the districts on both sides of the Balkans, had seen some fugitives from the Mussulman villages destroyed by the Russians, and had obtained information from them of what had occurred. He describes these villages, the names of which he mentioned, to have been among the most flourishing in that part of Turkey. According to the accounts that he had received, the Cossacks having entered them without opposition, first disarmed the inhabitants, and then handed them over to the Bulgarians who accompany the Russian forces.

These Bulgarians then set fire to the houses and slaughtered men, women, and children, violating the women and throwing the children into the flames. The Cossacks speared those who attempted to escape. In mixed villages the Christian houses were left uninjured, but in some instances a few appear to have been burnt accidentally. The Bulgarians who are engaged upon these shocking outrages have their leaders, one of the principal being one Hadji Dimitri, of Drenova.

An Armenian trader having been caught in a village to the north of the Balkans, was immediately put to death, with an Albanian who accompanied him. The news of the destruction of these villages, and of their inhabitants, had caused the greatest consternation to the inoffensive Mussulman population, and Mahommedan families were flying in all directions.

M. Gyldiz's statements were so circumstantial, and are so fully confirmed by reports received from other sources, that I have thought it my duty to communicate them to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 13.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 820.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1877.*

I AM informed by Commander Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," who has been stationed at Kustendje, that the Russians have established a sort of provisional Government in the town, and have named as Governor a M. Bellotcherkovitch, who previously held the same post at Tonicha.

Some of the inhabitants of the place have been elected to form a Municipal Government.

Notwithstanding the presence of a Russian regiment, the Bulgarians appear to have been disposed to "break out, and to render the lives of the subjects of European Powers insecure," but have been restrained by the Russian authorities, who behave, according to Commander Drummond, very well. He thinks that life and property will be perfectly secure in the rear of the Russian army. He has been told that the villagers will in a great measure return to their villages; but, owing to the want of cattle and carts, will be unable to save much of the harvest. The Russian authorities permit no exports from Kustendje and have, I am informed, forbidden all communication with the place by sea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 14.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 823.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1877.*

THE Grand Vizier has spoken to me more than once as to the preparations alleged to be making by Austria on her Dalmatian frontier for the invasion and occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Highness sent to request me urgently on Friday last to telegraph for information on the subject to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Consul in Bosnia. I did so accordingly, and have since received your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, which has enabled me to calm His Highness' fears to a certain extent. The Porte, however, is persuaded that if the Russians advance to Adrianople, and any movement should take place amongst the populations bordering on Greece, Austrian troops will at once enter into those provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 15.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 824.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 23, 1877.*

THE Porte is convinced that it is impossible to enter into any Treaty or engagement with Montenegrins which they will respect when they may gain anything by violating it. The Grand Vizier sent to me last week to know whether I had heard anything as to the result of Mr. Consul Green's mission to the Prince at Cettigné. When Mr. Green went there it was understood, His Highness said, that the Prince was desirous of coming to an arrangement with the Turkish military authorities for a suspension of hostilities, and the Turkish Government was equally disposed to put an end to the shedding of blood. It was, therefore, ready to agree to any fair terms that the Prince might propose through Her Majesty's Consul. But the moment the Turkish troops were being withdrawn the Montenegrins began hostilities again, and had, it was understood, attacked Niehsich. His Highness requested me to ask Mr. Green by telegraph whether the Montenegrins intended to renew the war.

I telegraphed to your Lordship Mr. Green's reply on the 21st instant, from which it is evident that, as the Turkish troops have been, for the most part, sent from Montenegro to reinforce the army in Roumelia, the Montenegrins will avail themselves of the opportunity to renew hostilities, and that they are acting entirely under the

orders and direction of the Russian Consul. Mr. Green is, however, of opinion that they will not be able to effect much against the Turks, who intend to remain on the defensive.

I communicated the substance of Mr. Green's telegram to the Grand Vizier, who expressed great indignation at what he considers the persistent bad faith and perfidy of Montenegro.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 16.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 825.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 24, 1877.*

THE Armenian Patriarch called upon me this morning to speak to me with reference to the condition of his community in the Pashalic of Van, and to the excesses which had been committed upon Armenian villages by the Kurds.

Amongst other things, he stated to me that he had inquired from the Armenian Bishop of Erzeroum whether the reports as to the ill-treatment of the head of the Armenian church at Utchkilissah by the Russians were true. The answer that he had received was, that they had been entirely confirmed. The Archimandrite of that place, who exercised archiepiscopal functions, had been "garotted" and carried off by the Russians, because he had refused to call upon the Armenians to rise against the Sultan; the Armenian monastery had been burnt, and a valuable collection of Armenian ecclesiastical MSS. belonging to it removed or destroyed. The Patriarch added that these outrages had more than ever indisposed the Armenians to join and sympathize with Russia, and it was for the Porte to take advantage of the feelings which they had caused amongst the Armenians, by giving them protection against the Kurds and others who might, out of fanaticism, be disposed to molest them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 17.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 827.)

My Lord, *Therapia, July 22, 1877.*

IT was generally understood, when the Sultan sent Redif Pasha to the headquarters of the army of the Danube, that it was the first step towards that Minister's disgrace and dismissal. His Majesty was highly dissatisfied with the manner in which the war was being carried on in Bulgaria, and especially with the want of activity and foresight on the part of the Turkish Generals which allowed the Russians to cross the Danube at Sistova without any serious opposition. Ignorance and incapacity were scarcely considered sufficient to account for this unexpected success of the enemy, and the public mind was disposed to attribute it to corruption and treachery. The Sultan ordered Redif Pasha to proceed at once to the seat of war, accompanied by Namik Pasha, in order to ascertain and report to him what the "plan" of the Serdar Ekrem, Abd-ul-Kerim Pasha, might be in permitting the Russians to cross the river in two places and to advance without resistance into Bulgaria. Redif Pasha appears to have been unable to discover the Serdar Ekrem's "plan," or to make a satisfactory report to His Majesty. The Sultan, greatly displeased, at once dismissed him, together with Abd-ul-Kerim Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, and the next in authority, Ahmed Eyoub Pasha.

It was at first stated that Osman Pasha, who commands the corps d'armée at Widdin, was to succeed Abd-ul-Kerim, but the Sultan changed his mind, and named Mehemet Ali Pasha, who has recently distinguished himself in the campaign against Montenegro, and who is by birth a German, in the place of Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, leaving the higher office of Serdar Ekrem unfilled. No successor to Redif Pasha will be appointed for the present. It is believed that Raouf Pasha, the present Minister of Marine, will hereafter be named to the office.

These changes have given much satisfaction to the public, who connect, and not without reason, many of the misfortunes which have befallen the Empire to the evil

influence of Redif Pasha and to the incompeteney of Abd-ul-Kerim. As the Sultan is known to have been the author of them he has gained in popularity, and it is hoped that other persons who are believed to have exercised an equally pernicious influence over His Majesty, will follow.

Redif Pasha certainly deserves the credit of having displayed remarkable vigour and capacity in bringing together the very large army which has enabled Turkey to withstand her powerful enemy, but he is narrow-minded and bigoted, and his jealousy of, and aversion to foreigners has hitherto deprived the Sultan of the services of many able and capable men at a moment of urgent need. He is of so determined a character that the Sultan did well to remove him to the head-quarters in Bulgaria before dismissing him from his office. He will probably be sent into exile to some distant part of the Empire. But whether he, Abd-ul-Kerim and Ahmed Eyoub, will be first submitted to a Court of Inquiry, is not yet, I believe, determined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 18.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 828.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 24, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Vice-Consul Sankey.

The affair at Kavarna, to which it principally refers, had already been made known to me, although in a very exaggerated way, by the Hellenic Minister, who, on Sunday evening, sent me the following telegram from the Acting Greek Consul at the place:—"En ce moment on égorge les Chrétiens de Kavarna à une demie heure de distance de Baltchik. Si aucune assistance humaine jusqu'à demain tout sera fini. Montrez cette dépêche à toutes les Ambassades." This telegram was of course shown to the other Embassies and circulated as much as possible amongst the Greeks.

Although I could not but believe that there was a good deal of exaggeration in the Acting Consul's statement, I telegraphed at once to Commander Drummond, who, I was under the impression, was at Varna, to proceed immediately to Baltchik to afford such protection as might be in his power to the lives and property of the Christians of Kavarna, and to report to me what had taken place there.

I have since been told by the Porte that some marauders, having attempted to plunder the town, the inhabitants resisted, and several were killed. Prince Hassan, on being informed of the occurrence, immediately despatched some troops to the place, who restored order and captured some of the robbers.

They have been imprisoned at Varna, and will, I am assured, receive condign punishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—Your Lordship will perceive that Vice-Consul Sankey asks for an increased allowance to meet the expenses to which he has been placed in consequence of the war.

I have informed him that I will submit his request to your Lordship.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July* 21, 1877.

I HAVE to report to your Excellency that on the 13th last the Turkish authorities and troops embarked on board three Turkish steamers and left Kustendji at midnight for Varna. As the town was abandoned by the Turks my colleagues and myself consulted with Captain Drummond and took measures for securing public tranquillity. As the Russians were known to be in the neighbourhood of Medjidieh, Mr. Harris, with an engine and some carriages, and a strong guard of armed Bulgars, left on the 14th, and discovered the Russian army encamped at Medjidieh. He had

an interview with General Zimmerman, and the next afternoon a body of Cossacks under Colonel Orloff Denenhoff took possession of Kustendji. On the 19th arrived M. Belotcherkovitz, who has been charged with the organization of the Dobrudcha, who immediately formed a provisional Government. As Captain Drummond could not be prevailed upon to stay any longer at Kustendji (tranquillity and order being established), and as after the departure of the "Rapid" I should have been completely cut off from communication with my superiors, I left for Varna, to take instructions from Mr. Consul Reade, and there found your Excellency's despatch of July 11.

The day I left Kustendji provisions were running short, and the necessaries of life quite beyond my limited means. As I have to return, I beg that your Excellency will kindly take measures to remedy this by an allowance, as I have already been compelled to borrow in excess of my pay. To give your Excellency an idea of the scarcity and consequent increase in price, sugar was selling at 45 piastres per oke and coffee 82 piastres. I should, therefore, require to take with me from Varna a sufficient supply of necessaries to last me for a considerable time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SANKEY.

No. 19.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 829.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 24, 1877.

THE proceedings of the Russians and their Bulgarian allies in Bulgaria and Roumelia have convinced the Mahommedan inhabitants of those provinces and the Turkish Government that it is the deliberate intention of Russia either to exterminate the Mussulman population by the sword, or to drive it out of the country.

It is asserted that there is to be a general confiscation of the property of the Mussulmans, which has already commenced. Their houses are to be burnt and their lands divided amongst the Christians.

The shocking outrages which, there can scarcely be any doubt, have been committed upon them, either by the Russians or by Bulgarians under their protection, have struck terror amongst the Mussulman populations. They are now flying, as the Russians advance, to escape the fate of their brethren, and are seeking refuge in the Turkish fortresses and in Constantinople. A very considerable number have come to the capital by land and by sea. I saw yesterday several large steamers belonging to the Turkish Government filled with these unfortunate creatures—men, women, and children. They arrive here in the utmost distress and misery, having abandoned or lost all they possessed in the world. It is feared that this great crowd of fugitives in Constantinople, which will be daily increased, may lead to disorders in consequence of the feelings of indignation to which their presence and their sufferings may give rise amongst the Mahommedan inhabitants of the city, or that, as was the case when the Russians expelled the Circassians from their country, the crowding together of so many starving persons may cause a dangerous epidemic. The Sultan has directed that proper places shall be found for their shelter, and that they shall receive rations, which will be paid for out of his privy purse. He has also given orders that houses belonging to the Royal Domain shall be given over to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 20.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 1.)

(No. 830.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 24, 1877.

IN a further letter from Consul Blunt, dated from Philippopoli, the 21st instant, he states that his despatches and letters from Kezanlik furnish some important statements about Russian cruelties, obtained from eye-witnesses. Mr. Blunt proceeds:—

"I very much fear that there is some truth in these reported cruelties; at all events, the burning of Turkish villages is a fact, and I have been assured that the route of the Russian march can be traced by the villages they burn.

"I am apprehensive of bloody acts of retaliation on the part of the Turks should this barbarous system of warfare be persevered in by the Russians, and I am using all my influence against such an impending danger. Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert and his foreign colleagues (French, Austrian, and Greek) also exert themselves to calm the excitement and panic which more or less prevails among Turks and Christians. Both communities are now acting together, and trying to preserve public order and tranquillity. There is, however, a disposition on the part of the subordinate authorities not only to look with distrust upon the Bulgarians, but also to exaggerate and attribute to them the outrages committed by the Russians. And the accounts published on this head by the Turkish newspapers 'Vakit' and 'Bassivet' excite the alarm and religious passions of the inhabitants, and interfere with the efforts which are made by the leading men to keep up a friendly feeling between Turks and Christians. I continue to hear very satisfactory accounts of the quiet attitude of the Bulgarians in this province, and although their would-be liberators are close at hand, they pay their taxes regularly, and comply with military requisitions without the least opposition."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 21.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 831.)
Therapia, July 24, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Grand Vizier spoke yesterday to Mr. Sandison with great bitterness about the conduct of Servia. His Highness said that there could be no doubt that she was meditating an attack upon Turkey as soon as she thought that her oportunity had come. His Highness observed that it was mainly owing to the advice and pressure of England that the Porte had made peace with the Principality, and had treated it with extraordinary moderation and generosity, withdrawing its troops and consenting to the *status quo*. Servia had been crushed by the Turkish armies, and was at their mercy. The Porte could have taken possession of her fortresses, which would have been the only sure guarantee against future agression on her part. Yielding to the counsels of England the Turkish Government had given up the enormous military advantages that it had obtained, and which would have enabled it to control a vassal State which no Treaty or moral obligation could bind. His Highness seemed to think that the least Her Majesty's Government could do, under the present circumstances, was to use their influence to prevent Servia availing herself of the means which she possessed, in consequence of their interference, to embarrass and injure Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 22.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 832.)
Therapia, July 24, 1877.

My Lord,

TAHIR BEY, one of the Sultan's aides-de-camp, called upon me this morning with a message from the Sultan. His Majesty requested me to receive an account from this officer of the atrocities committed by the Russian troops upon the inoffensive Mussulman population. Tahir Bey, who is just arrived from Shumla and the seat of war, then gave me a shocking description of the women and children—to the number, he said, of seventy or eighty—who had been horribly wounded and mutilated by Cossack lances, and had been brought in a dying state to the hospitals of Shumla. He further stated that the Turkish authorities possessed undoubted evidence that a very large number of persons, who were escaping in carts with all they could carry away from their homes, were set upon by the Cossacks and barbarously murdered, not even little children escaping. He said that nothing could exceed the consternation of the Mahommedan population, which was flying in all directions, and that the flames of their deserted villages were seen far and wide over the face of the country.

I asked Tahir Bey whether the Bulgarians were not principally concerned in these outrages. He answered that no doubt the Russians armed the Bulgarians and incited them to massacre the Mussulmans, but that the wounds and mutilations of women and children which he had described were unquestionably inflicted by Cossack lances, and that a number of independent witnesses, including Colonel Lennox, could testify to the fact.

After giving me a number of harrowing details of the manner in which women and children had been treated by the Russians, which I forbear from repeating, and which, it may be hoped, were exaggerated, Tahir Bey delivered to me the following message from the Sultan:—

"His Majesty requests you to lose no time in entreating the Queen and Her Majesty's Government to make use of their influence with the Emperor of Russia to prevail upon His Majesty to take measures to prevent and put an end to the shocking cruelties which are now being committed upon the unarmed and inoffensive Mussulman population by his troops. In all parts of the Ottoman territories invaded by the Emperor's armies the men, women, and children are exposed to dreadful outrages, and are being massacred in the most horrible manner. His Majesty trusts that, if representations are made to the Emperor as to the character which the Russian authorities and troops are giving to this war, he will at once take steps to put a stop to these proceedings. His Majesty can scarcely believe that the Emperor desires that this war should become one of extermination, and one rather waged by brigands than by a civilized nation."

Tahir Bey, who was really affected in describing to me the scenes that he had witnessed, placed in my hands a letter from Aarifi Pasha, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Aarifi Pasha to Mr. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur,
Le 24 Juillet, 1877.

DE retour de Choumla, où il avait été en mission spéciale, Tahir Bey, Aide-de-camp du Palais, aura l'honneur de se présenter à votre Excellence pour lui exposer en détail, d'ordre de Sa Majesté, le spectacle navrant auquel il a assisté en visitant les victimes nombreuses des cruautés commises par les Russes.

Cet officier a attendu hier votre Excellence chez moi, mais comme il n'a pas pu la voir il est chargé d'aller s'acquitter aujourd'hui du message souverain auprès d'elle.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir se faire donner par Tahir Bey tous les renseignements qu'elle désirerait sur les horreurs perpétrées par les Russes, horreurs qui dévoilent le caractère vrai d'une lutte indigne de notre temps et de nos mœurs.

J'ajouterai que Sa Majesté a exprimé le désir de voir porter ces faits à la connaissance de Sa Majesté la Reine et du Gouvernement.

Nous sommes convaincus que votre Excellence, dans sa justice bien connue, voudra bien partager nos sentiments sur des actes si peu compatibles avec la civilisation et l'humanité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. AARIFY.

No. 23.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 834.)
Therapia, July 25, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Consul Blunt and Vice-Consuls Dupuis and Calvert, relating to the Russian advance in Bulgaria and the outrages alleged to have been committed on the Mahommedan population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Philippopolis, July 18, 1877.

Sir,

I ARRIVED here to-day, having left Kyzanlik yesterday morning at 7 o'clock, when the Russians were within an hour's march of that town.

I now hasten to lay before your Excellency a narrative of the important events which took place up to that time, since my despatches of the 14th and my private letter of the 15th instant.

The Russians, it appears, are crossing the Balkans by the mountain track of Hain-Kioï, on the morning of the 14th instant, established themselves on a hill at the village of Eshekdji, where they raised a redoubt. Houloussi Pasha, marching against them from Shipka Pass, took up a position between the villages of Zaikanly and Lagahanly, which he held with three battalions of infantry (about 1,800 men), unsupported by artillery or cavalry.

On the night of the 15th instant the Russians moved upon Lagahanly (or Oklanly). This village they reached about 2 o'clock next morning, and encountered the Ottoman force soon after. In the unequal engagement which followed, and which lasted the whole day, the Turks, destitute of field pieces, were compelled slowly but continually to fall back. Yet by nightfall the Russians had only made their way to Zaikanly. Houloussi Pasha retired up the hills on his left. He was in the course of the day joined by 500 irregulars from Kyzanlik, but these, recognizing the hopeless inferiority of their arms, very soon retired from the field. Late in the afternoon reinforcements arrived at Kyzanlik from Shipka. They consisted of a battalion of infantry with two field pieces; but in the meanwhile Houloussi Pasha had lost a battalion through a successful charge of the Russian cavalry, one-half being taken prisoners and the remainder driven from the field. Another battalion with one more gun was then sent for from Shipka. The two battalions and the half battalion which had rallied (about 1,500 men) with their three guns in the early morning.

The Russian forces engaged during the 16th instant are said to have consisted of three battalions of infantry and two regiments of cavalry, that is 4,300 men with seven guns; several of these last being heavier pieces than mountain guns. I do not know whether this force was further increased on the following day.

During the night the Russian cavalry seized the position of Maglish, thereby preventing the Turkish reinforcements from coming up, and at the same time cutting off Houloussi Pasha communications with Kyzanlik.

Fighting recommenced at 2 next morning, the 17th instant. The Russians moved in two columns, the right column continually pressing Houloussi Pasha further up the hills towards Ketchi-Derek, whilst the left column pushed the Turkish reinforcements towards Tchangarly.

Such was the military position when I quitted Kyzanlik yesterday morning. The Turks were then considered to have lost the day. The firing was very heavy, as it had been for the previous two days, up to 9 o'clock, a couple of hours after my departure, when it entirely ceased. A column of smoke rising in the direction of Tchangarly about the same time seemed to indicate the capture and burning of that village.

Meanwhile within the town of Kyzanlik the state of matters was at one time very critical. A report having been spread that the Russians were within half-an-hour's march of the town, the whole male population, their minds filled with the accounts brought in by fugitives of atrocities committed in the wake of Russian victory, instantly flew to arms and threw up a barricade at the entrance of the town, saying that if they must die, they would do so with arms in their hands. A panic seized at the same time the Bulgarian inhabitants, who believed that in the more than probable event of these volunteers being defeated, they would, in desperation, turn their arms against their Christian fellow-townsmen, or that their foolhardy resistance would, at any rate, bring on the town a tragedy at the hands of the Russians. As there were some grounds for the latter fear, I immediately used my utmost endeavours and such influence as I fortunately possessed with the leading Mussulmans and Christians to avert the threatened catastrophe, and to calm the terror of the Bulgarians.

This unofficial action on my part in the interest of humanity appeared to me to be the more urgently called for, inasmuch as the Kaimakam was absent with the Bashi-Bazouks, leaving the executive in the hands of the Cadi, who, though a sensible and well-intentioned young man, had no experience as an administrator.

The report above-mentioned having proved to be unfounded, there was happily time to obtain a hearing for more reasonable counsels. I showed the Turkish notables that, for civilians to attempt what the army had failed to accomplish, would be a fatal crime, as well as a childish folly; and that, by the laws of civilized nations, the lives and property of the inhabitants would be guaranteed through submission to the fortune of war.

This reasoning prevailed, and, before long, the notables came to announce to me that the people had decided to put by their arms, and accept whatever Providence might decree.

Seeing how narrow was the escape at Kyzanlik, there is reason to apprehend that things may not always take the same fortunate turn elsewhere. It is to the reports of barbarities alleged to be committed by the Russians on the Turkish population that the danger is primarily to be attributed. But on the other hand, the bad policy of the Porte in calling the civil inhabitants to arms has been proved at Kyzanlik, both in respect of the uselessness on the field of battle of old-fashioned Turkish weapons against modern European arms, and as exposing to dreadful consequences those who ignorantly employ them on occasions where their use is not sanctioned by the usages of civilized warfare.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—I ought to explain that the narrative of military events contained in the first part of this despatch has been made up from the comparison of items of intelligence obtained from casual sources, and brought in from time to time from the field of battle; and it is but fair to state that I am indebted to Mr. E. Calvert for the assistance he has given me in this task.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Philippopolis, July 19, 1877.

IN furnishing the narrative of events at Kyzanlik contained in my last despatch to your Excellency of yesterday's date, I have deemed it preferable to reserve for a separate report such further information supplementary to that contained in my despatch of July 14, from Kyzanlik, as has reached me on the subject of barbarities alleged to have been committed in those parts by the Russian army of invasion.

I now proceed to lay before your Excellency these additional particulars. If they are not in point of quantity in proportion to the sweeping destruction which is alleged to have followed in the wake of the Cossacks everywhere, that fact is attributable to these causes.

In the first place, as regards the fugitives at Kyzanlik from the other side of the Balkans almost all had fled at the mere approach of the invaders. They could not, therefore, testify from their own knowledge one way or the other to the treatment of those who had remained behind. The men who effected their escape from the destruction of their native villages, and whose statements, taken down by Mr. Calvert form Inclosure No. 1 in my despatch above referred to, were, as far as Mr. Calvert could learn, the only eye-witnesses of the cruel deeds said to have been perpetrated in Bulgaria proper, who had taken refuge at Kyzanlik. With reference to the villages on this side of the Balkans, Eshekji, the first Turkish village on the Russian line of march, is known to have been burnt, as well as Azabli. Both these places being within the jurisdiction of Yeni-Zaghra, any inhabitants who may have fled from it would naturally have directed their steps to the chief town of this district. None came to Kyzanlik.

As to the next village, Yeni-Mahallé (inhabited, like Eshekji, by Turks alone), several of its inhabitants who had escaped with life, and were not carried off as prisoners, took refuge at Kyzanlik. Mr. Calvert examined three of the principal villagers, and your Excellency will find inclosed the following interesting account, which he took down from their lips, of the treatment to which the village and its inhabitants were subjected at the hands of the Cossacks and the Bulgarians, whom they set on to assist in the work of destruction.

Warned by the fate of Yeni-Mahallé, all the remaining Turkish and mixed Bulgarian villages towards Kyzanlik were at once deserted by their Moslem inhabi-

tants, and every one of these villages were successively burnt wholly or in part. Such is, at least, the official statement, confirmed by the testimony of several persons who took part in the engagements which covered the ground where the villages were situated. Many of the inhabitants of the villages, Bulgarians, it is said, as well as Turks, took refuge with Houloussi Pasha on the hills.

The following is a list of the villages in question:—

Purely Turkish villages.	*Mixed villages.*
1. Eshekji.	5. Laghanly.
2. Azabli.	6. Yaikanly.
3. Yeni-Mahallé.	7. Kezlidja.
4. Kyshla.	8. Tchernaji.

Travellers arrived to-day from Calofer announce the burning of Sarantzbala—another Turkish village between that place and Kyzanlik. It is probable that all the Moslem villages up to that point had been destroyed, as, indeed, that course appears to be systematically pursued by the invaders. I found all the Turkish villages on the road to Calofer already abandoned and the unhappy peasants and their families encamped in the open fields.

In the absence of the testimony of eye-witnesses, I refrain from relating many acts of cruelty imputed to the Cossacks.

On the other hand, it was reported to me on the 10th instant by one of the Bulgarian notables of Kyzanlik, that the Turks of the mixed village of Yaikanly had massacred their Bulgarian neighbours, whose bodies filled the streets. I at once instructed Mr. Calvert to set out for Yaikanly and inquire on the spot into the truth of the alleged tragedy. Before Mr. Calvert could reach the place, however, it had fallen into the hands of the Russians. I am, therefore, unable to speak on the matter positively, but seeing that the story proceeded from a person of pro-Russian views, and that it was not corroborated from any other source, I cannot but suspect that it had no better foundation than others of the same kind which, on inquiry, proved to be utterly false, and made up with calculated motives, the motive in this instance being presumably that of extenuating the cruelties with which the common voice charged both Russians and Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 23.

Statement regarding Yeni Mahallé, a Turkish Village of 130 houses, 6 hours from Kyzanlik and 1½ hours from Hain-Keui.

FROM the accounts given by Osman, Ahmed, and Sadyk, wounded inhabitants of Yeni-Mahallé.

At 10 A.M., yesterday, field-guns were heard firing in the direction of Hain-Keui. The informants suppose that the fire was directed against the Turkish detachment sent there a few days ago. Half an hour later the Cossacks were seen approaching the village.

The villagers collected the women and children, and shut them up in the mosque. The men went out unarmed to meet the Cossacks, and bid them welcome. These at once demanded that all the arms in the village should be given up. The order was immediately complied with by depositing them near the mosque. The Cossacks then seized the Mukhtar, the elders, and others, to the number of sixty or seventy.

While one party of them was taking charge of them as prisoners, another surrounded the village and fired on those who attempted to escape. The informants do not know exactly how many were killed, probably between twenty and thirty persons, including one woman killed and one wounded, who had not time to get into the mosque. They then began firing shots at the mosque from the courtyard. Two men, my informant Sadyk and another, who did not deliver up their arms in good time, and went to the mosque to do so, were wounded. In the meantime the Bulgarians from the neighbouring villages of Hain-Keui, Kyzanlik and Laghanly, who had accompanied the Cossacks, drove off all their cattle and sheep, and loading the village waggons with the property of the owners, carried it all away. The Cossacks then

set fire to the village in three places at once, and burnt it to the ground. They left at sunset, taking with them the arms and captured villagers, and returned to Hain-Keui, where they had pitched their tents. My informants could not distinguish any officer among the Cossacks. The remaining men of the village set out immediately afterwards on foot for Kyzanlik, accompanied by the women and children, with nothing left to them in the world but what they had on.

(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 23.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, July 20, 1877.*

I BEG to transmit to your Excellency a report by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, with its inclosures, on the state of public feeling at Philippopolis, and the effect produced on that feeling by the calling out of the Bashi-Bazouks.

I had the honour to call this latter subject to your Excellency's notice in my telegram (in Turkish) to your Excellency from Kyzanlik of the 16th instant, a copy of the English draft of which is also inclosed.

I further had occasion to point out in my despatch to your Excellency of the 18th instant, the fatal consequences which the calling to arms of the Mussulman population might entail on the inhabitants of open towns, and from which Kyzanlik so narrowly escaped, through desperate attempts to resist the occupation of those towns by the invading army. As regards the object in view, I have shown in the same despatch how little advantage the Porte can expect to derive from this measure, the experience of the fighting before Kyzanlik having proved to demonstration the hopeless inferiority of the obsolete weapons with which the Bashi-Bazouks are armed, leaving them no alternative but to retire at once from the unequal contest.

On my arrival here the leading members of the Turkish and Bulgarian communities called upon me. Each expressed their apprehension of the effects which Russian successes might produce on the other community, together with the hope that I would prolong my stay and use my influence in averting untoward occurrences at Philippopolis. The fears of the Bulgarians and Turks of this town are of the same character respectively as those which I found to prevail at Kyzanlik. The Turks here are disposed to read the passage in the Czar's Proclamation which alludes to the punishment of those concerned in last year's excesses by the light of the reported Russian atrocities. They infer that it is in this broad and indiscriminate form that the punishment in question is intended to be carried out, and that no Mussulman will be safe from it.

My suggestions and advice to both sections of the community have been in the same sense as those which I gave at Kyzanlik, and I trust they may be attended with the same beneficial result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Philippopolis, July 20, 1877.*

BY the copies herewith inclosed of two telegrams addressed by me to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the 18th instant, and of two communications that have passed between the Mutessarif and Consular Corps, you will see that my colleagues and myself have been taking collective steps to strengthen the hands of the Governor in preserving the peace of this town.

The action taken by us was, I venture to think, called for by the state of feeling amongst the Turkish population, which, momentarily panic-stricken by the accounts brought here of Russian and Bulgarian excesses, might easily, if led to fancy themselves deprived of the sympathy of the European Powers, having fallen into a state of desperation highly dangerous to the safety of the Christians.

The night of the 7th instant was passed by the Turks here in a state of painful excitement—the lower classes in arms sternly resolved to retaliate at the first symptom

of Bulgarian hostility, the notables out of their minds with fear preparing to leave the town. Fortunately in the morning wiser councils prevailed. The Mussulman notables sent a deputation to the Greek Vice-Consul, as Doyen of our Consular Corps, asking for advice as to their wisest course under the circumstances. M. Matalas replied by assuring them as to the intentions of the Russians, whose reported atrocities were in all probability untrue or strongly exaggerated, and who, he said, would not dare to violate the laws of European warfare by committing unnecessary cruelties on peaceful citizens; while as to the Bulgarians he said he did not believe they cherished any plan of attacking the Mussulman population.

Identical assurances were subsequently addressed to the Mussulman notables by my French and Austrian colleagues and by myself. I endeavoured to show them that the Bulgarians, even if inclined to commit excesses (which I for one did not believe), would not dare to thus act, knowing well that, though the Russians might be in occupation of the country at one moment, they might be driven out the next.

The most efficacious means of removing the apprehensions expressed by the Turks being evidently to establish between them and the non-Mussulman communities a feeling of mutual confidence, M. Matalas suggested, and my other two colleagues and myself agreed, that we should endeavour, with the consent of the Mutessarif, to bring about a common understanding with a view to the preservation of public tranquillity, should it be imperilled by either Christain or Mussulman "mauvais sujets."

The Turkish notables, to whom we spoke in this sense, lost no time in calling a meeting at the konak of the heads of the different communities. When, in the afternoon, we called on the Mutessarif and stated to him our views, his Excellency expressed his entire concurrence, and proposed that we should attend and confer on the subject with the aforesaid meeting then sitting in another apartment of the konak.

The result of our Conference with the meeting was extremely satisfactory, in so far that it testified that the desire of all was to preserve the safety and tranquillity of the town, and thus tended to remove the mutual suspicion subsisting between Mussulmans and Christians.

The mixed force of civilians, which it was agreed to organize, is composed only of persons possessing property, and therefore having a vested interest in the safety of the town. The streets during the last two nights have been patrolled by it.

Special messengers were moreover despatched by the meeting on behalf of the Bulgarian and Turkish communities to the principal villages of the sandjak, to earnestly advise the peasantry of both religions in the common interest to preserve, under all circumstances, a peaceful attitude towards each other.

Advice in the same sense, I should add, had been previously addressed by the Mutessarif to the rural population.

In all this the presence of Bashi-Bazouks has, I am happy to say, contributed but little to increase the existing uneasiness. The new official designation of "auxiliary troops" has been justified by the orderly conduct of 400 of these men, who arrived here from Hasskeui on the 18th instant. The Mutessarif has wisely given orders that they should come here unarmed; these orders are strictly observed; and though the men are allowed to stroll about the town during the day, they are shut up in the khans under the guard of sentries during the night.

Considerable difficulty, I must add, has been experienced in collecting even this small irregular force of 400 men. It needed no little argument to persuade them to join the standard after the lesson inflicted on the Bashi-Bazouks last year, when it will be remembered two of them were hung and some sixty sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. Five of these sixty have since died in prison, and about forty have not yet completed their sentences.

I trust, Sir, that in joining in the action proposed by my colleagues in the public interest of this district, I have done nothing which can meet with your disapprobation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 23.

Note addressed by the Consular Corps at Philippopoli to Abdul Hamid Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur, *Philippopoli, le 3 Juillet*, 1877.

LE Corps Consulaire a appris que des Bashi-Bazouks étaient appelés sous les armes, et se trouve dans la nécessité de vous représenter:

Que l'année dernière des irréguliers se sont rendus coupables, comme vous ne l'ignorez pas, des violences les plus regrettables dans ce sandjak. Qu'ils n'ont pas épargné les étrangers, ont massacré deux Français, Gouzon et Allard, et un sujet Autrichien, sans que les coupables aient été punis.

Dans les circonstances actuelles il est du devoir du Corps Consulaire, pour empêcher que de semblables faits viennent à se renouveler, de vous prier, M. le Gouverneur, de prendre des mesures pour sauvegarder la vie et la fortune de nos nationaux.

Nous connaissons assez l'esprit d'équité et la fermeté de votre Excellence pour être assurés d'avance qu'elle apportera tout son dévouement à prévenir des excès dont la responsabilité retomberait sur elle.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) EM. BOYSSET, *Vice-Consul de France.*
F. R. J. CALVERT, *Gérant du Vice-Consulat d'Angleterre.*
J. D'ADELBOURG, *Gérant du Vice-Consulat d'Autriche.*
ATH. MATALAS, *Vice-Consul de Grèce.*

Inclosure 7 in No. 23.

Abdul Hamid Pasha to the Consular Corps of Philippopolis.

(Translation.)
Gentlemen, *Philippopolis, July* $\frac{4}{16}$, 1877.

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your identic communication of the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ July, referring to the levy of Bashi-Bazouks, and in which you remind me of the lamentable occurrences of last year. With respect to this matter I beg to inform you that the present levy of Bashi-Bazouks is not merely a military measure taken on local responsibility, but has been put in execution by order of the Imperial Government. I, however, forwarded to my superiors copy of your communication in order that they may become cognizant thereof.

(Signed) ABDUL HAMID, *Mutessarif.*

Inclosure 8 in No. 23.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Sent in Turkish.) *Kyzanlik, July* 10, 1877.

AUTHORITIES of Kyzanlik and other districts of Philippopolis are calling Bashi-Bazouks to arms. If the Porte sanctions this measure it is most imperative, in the present state of public feeling here and in the neighbourhood, that these irregulars should at least be placed under the command of responsible military officers, in order to maintain strict discipline.

Inclosure 9 in No. 23.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, July* 20, 1877.

I HAD the honour to address to your Excellency to-day the following open telegram:—

"Latest official advices received from Eski-Zaghra to-day. A Russian column has occupied the pass of Dervent Kioi, about three hours from Eski-Zaghra, and is

fortifying it; another column has occupied Kalofer, six hours west of Kyzanlik; and a third column Kyzanlik and Shipka, evidently with the object of isolating Shipka Pass. The Russians who have now crossed the Balkans are estimated at 30,000, but authorities are disposed to doubt this. Raouf Pasha, with a strong division from Slimnia, expected to-day at Yeni-Zaghra."

It may be useful here to offer some remarks in connection with that part of my despatch to your Excellency from Kyzanlik of the 14th instant which described the passage of the Balkans by the vanguard of the Russian army. "This force," I said, "made its way over the mountains last night by a track which leads down to the village of Hain-kioi, and is not marked on Handtke's elaborate map lately published."

That statement was based on the 11th section of a map entitled "Special-Karte der Europäischen Turkei, von F. Handtke," published by Colonel Flemming at Glogau, dated 1877, and marked "Zweite umgearbeitete Auflage." The Russian vanguard was reported to have crossed the Balkans by a track leading directly down to the village of Hain-kioi by the valley known as the Hain (or Khain) Boghay, and situated to the west of that which leads to the same village by the Feridjish (or Ferditch) Derbend. This last defile is marked down on the above-mentioned map, the other is not. I first learned the existence of the Hain defile when at Yeni-Zaghra, and I mentioned in my despatch from that place of the 12th instant that half a battalion of troops had been sent to watch it.

Now, on comparing with the above edition of Handtke's map one on the same scale, but undated, which is in the possession of Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, I find in the latter a double line, indicating a "chaussée" laid down all the way from Elena to Hain-kioi, over the Feredjish defile. A Bulgarian at Kyzanlik casually mentioned to me that a road of that kind, which he described as a carriageable road, existed between Elena and Hain-kioi; but as he was alone in this assertion, and on being pressed said he only spoke from hearsay, I concluded he was mistaken. At this distance from the spot I cannot clear up the doubt, but am now inclined to believe my informant was right; although how, if it be so, the road has come to be omitted in the newer map, whilst marked in what is presumably the older one, I cannot conjecture.

The large number of Russian troops that have already made their way to the side of the Balkans with their complement of artillery tends to favour the belief that the chaussée in question really does exists. This point is an important one to establish, for if there is such a road the Russians must be in a degree independent of the better known highways over the Balkans, and the main defile may have been selected as the chief line of passage for the invading army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, July* 19, 1877.

I BEG leave to acquaint your Excellency that I am informed by an Englishman that the Bulgarians in Yeni-Zaghra have burnt down some fifty Turkish houses in that town, including two mosques, the Custom-house, and telegraph office. My informant also told me that at a village, the name of which he could not recollect, the Bulgarians shut up several Turkish women and children in a mosque or house which they set on fire.

I am told to-day that a foreign mission has just started for Yeni-Zaghra to ascertain the truth as to the occurrence there.

Up to this hour there appears to be nothing new from the seat of war. It was said this morning that Eski-Zaghra was in the hands of the Russians, and that the Turkish forces at Kyzanlik were surrounded by the enemy, but these reports want confirmation.

Great uneasiness exists here owing to the presence of armed volunteers (Zeibeks, Circassians, and gipsies) in the streets, lest disturbances should break out in the absence of regular troops. The Consular Corps will call on the Governor-General in an hour's time and confer with his Excellency on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

P.S.—Numbers of Bulgarian families of Yeni-Zaghra abandoned by their male members have been cared for by the Turkish authorities and brought to Adrianople for safety.

J. H. D.

Inclosure 11 in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, July* 19, 1877.

THE Consular Corps, seeing the great excitement and uneasiness that exists in the public mind, and fearing some popular outbreak, owing to the presence of great numbers of armed Zeibeks, Circassians, and other irregular troops in this city, and the absence of regulars, addressed a collective note to the Governor-General to-day, requesting him to remove those irregulars, or at all events not to allow them to go about the town, to the terror of the inhabitants, and at the risk of a popular outbreak, and only to supply them with arms on their departure to the interior.

His Excellency found objections to the disarming of men whom, he said, formed part of the regular army.

As regards a garrison, he said some 10,000 men now on their way from Montenegro would be stationed in Adrianople.

He added that he knew it was his duty to protect all alike, and that he would do his best to do so, and would punish the guilty.

This reply was considered vague and unsatisfactory, but the Consular Corps rests satisfied that it has done its duty in calling the attention of the Governor-General to the existing element of danger, and that all responsibility must now rest with the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 12 in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, July* 20, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of yesterday, I beg leave to transmit to your Excellency herewith inclosed copy of the collective note which the Consular Corps, in the interest of the public tranquillity, though it their duty to address to the Governor-General.

His Excellency Ali Pasha is evidently greatly annoyed at this step, not so much that we should have thought it necessary to address him on the subject, as that we called upon him in a body, which, he says, has given rise to still greater disquietude in the town, and that he would have preferred had the note been presented by one or two members.

So far from our step having caused greater disquietude, I am assured that it has tranquillized the public mind, and that several persons in consequence have deferred their departure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

P.S.—My Dragoman tells me that both the Greek and Armenian Bishops were about to take similar steps as the Consular Corps, which meets with their satisfaction.

J. H. D.

Inclosure 13 in No. 23.

Note addressed by Consular Corps at Adrianople to the Governor-General.

Andrinople, le 19 *Juillet*, 1877.

EN vue de la panique qui règne, depuis quelques jours, dans cette ville, le Corps Consulaire d'Andrinople s'est réuni aujourd'hui pour délibérer sur la question de savoir

si la sécurité de la ville, et notamment des étrangers confiés à la protection des Consuls, est réellement menacée, et quelles mesures seraient éventuellement à prendre pour les garantir des dangers qu'ils pourraient courir.

A part les périls d'un bombardement qui ne sont pas discutables, à cette occasion, il est constaté qu'il s'est introduit dans cette ville des éléments très dangereux pour la sécurité publique, ce sont d'abord des fugitifs, parmi lesquels les Musulmans seuls sont armés, et ensuite des troupes irrégulières qui ont déjà montré, ailleurs, leur tendance à commettre des actes de violence, même dans la capitale de l'Empire.

L'irritation causée par l'approche des forces Russes et d'insurgés Bulgares ne manquerait pas d'accentuer ici cette tendance que l'absence de soldats réguliers encouragerait encore. A l'Andrinople le périt se trouve augmenté, du reste par ce motif que les maisons sont construites en bois et que, de plus, les rues sont tellement étroites que si le feu était mis quelque part la ville serait en danger de brûler surtout pendant la confusion qui régnerait dans les circonstances dont il s'agit.

Il est vrai que le Corps Consulaire peut donner à ses protégés le conseil de partir pour éviter les dangers. Mais ce départ porterait certainement préjudice à leurs intérêts, et pour un grand nombre d'étrangers le départ serait impossible pour des raisons personnelles.

Le Corps Consulaire se croit, par conséquent, obligé, autant qu'il est en son pouvoir et dans le cas où l'autorité locale n'y aurait pas encore veillé, de provoquer des mesures pour assurer la sécurité des habitants, et il s'est décidé à prier son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de vouloir bien lui faire connaître les intentions de l'autorité locale sous ce rapport.

Le Corps Consulaire se permet à cette occasion d'exposer les mesures qu'il serait nécessaires d'adopter d'après son avis unanime, à l'effet d'obtenir le but désiré.

Ces dispositions sont les suivantes :—

1. Défense pour les Bachi-Bouzouks, Zeibecks, et autres irréguliers d'entrer, soit dans la ville, soit dans le bourg de Karagatch (principalement habité par des étrangers).

Les Bachi-Bozouks, Zeibecks, &c., qui se trouvent actuellement à Andrinople et à Karagatch devront nécessairement en être éloignés.

2. Défense aux fugitifs de parcourir la ville avec des armes.

3. Etablissement à Andrinople d'une garnison d'un millier de soldats réguliers, au moins spécialement chargés de veiller à la sécurité de la ville et du bourg de Karagatch.

Le Corps Consulaire est convaincu que ces trois mesures feraient disparaître la panique, et contribueraient essentiellement à éloigner les dangers. Les précautions offrant une aussi grande utilité pour les indigènes que pour les étrangers, les soussignés ont le ferme espoir que leur démarche sera favorablement accueillie par l'autorité locale.

No. 24.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 836.) *Therapia, July 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE transmitted to your Lordship numerous accounts that I have received from the Porte, and from other sources, as to cruelties and "atrocities" alleged to have been committed by the Russian troops, and by Bulgarian Christians, upon the Mussulman population of the districts already occupied by Russia in Turkey in Europe. In doing so I desire it to be clearly understood that I in no way vouch for their truth. I daresay that many of them may be greatly exaggerated. It could scarcely be otherwise under present circumstances. For example, the detailed account given by the Porte of the destruction of certain villages, and of the slaughter of their inhabitants, in the document of which a copy is inclosed in my despatch No. 818 of the 23rd instant, bears a close resemblance to the list which was furnished in the first instance of similar outrages alleged to have been committed last year by the Turks in Bulgaria, and which subsequently proved to be entirely untrustworthy.

As partizans of the Russian cause, in order to meet the accusations against the Russians, or to palliate or justify acts which they cannot deny, are getting up counter-charges against the Turks, there is every prospect of a still further exaggeration of "atrocities" on both sides. In cases where people are so much worked up by passion and prejudice as to be unable to judge calmly and impartially of any matter in which

Mussulmans and Christians are antagonistically concerned, this must be expected, and it will be very difficult to get at the truth.

As it is considered to be the duty of Her Majesty's Embassy to send home all "atrocity" stories, without exercising any discretion as to withholding those which may appear, on the face of them, exaggerated or even untrue, I can only transmit to your Lordship such as come to me from different sources.

I have, however, no reason to doubt that many of them are well founded. I cannot reasonably doubt the evidence furnished by Her Majesty's Consular Agents and Military Attachés as to, at least, some of the outrages attributed to Russian troops and to Bulgarians acting under their protection. That Mussulman villages to a large number have been destroyed and burnt during the advance of the Russian army is beyond question. To slaughter their inhabitants indiscriminately, as the Turkish authorities allege the Russians to have done, would be as much opposed to good policy as to common humanity. Your Lordship will remember that I was warned by an influential Bulgarian gentleman some time ago that the greatest danger to the Mussulman population was to be expected from the Bulgarian refugees and the Bulgarians of Wallachia, who had been organized by the Russian Government in regiments to accompany the invading army. My informant feared that these Christians would commit every manner of outrage upon the Mahommedans. What he anticipated has probably come to pass, and to these so-called "avengers" may be mainly attributed the "atrocities" committed upon the inoffensive Mussulman population, although the Cossack lance may not have been idle. Whatever may have been the loss of Mahommedan life, one thing seems to be certain, that a vast number of terrified Mussulman men, women, and children are flying before the enemy, and that districts formerly happy and flourishing are now ruined and desolate.

On the other hand, there can be little doubt that Christians may have been exposed to outrages on the part of Mahommedans. But these outrages are of two classes, those arising out of acts of robbery and plunder and those attributable to a spirit of fanaticism. As regards the first, there is no question that, in consequence of the withdrawal of the police and regular troops for the purposes of war, a great part of Turkey is in a state of anarchy, and that shocking excesses have been committed, accompanied in many cases by a lamentable loss of life; the victims being generally, though not always, Christians, because they are unarmed, pusillanimous, and rich. Most parts of the Empire contain wild tribes, such as Circassians, Tartars, Kurds, Arabs, and others, that even in the normal state of affairs can scarcely be kept under proper control. The moment that the reins of authority are loosened they return to their lawless predatory habits. It is a question whether, in the present instance, the Turkish Government could have taken efficient measures to restrain them. The Porte has, no doubt, contributed to the evil by calling out and employing these marauders; but, in common justice to Turkey, it must be remembered that she has been compelled to have recourse to every possible means in the life-and-death struggle forced upon her. We must not be surprised if she avails herself of irregular troops, although we may think that they are really of little use to her.

As regards outrages committed by Mussulmans on Christians out of a spirit of fanaticism, they have yet been happily few. I have heard of a case at Yeni-Zaghra which is said to have come to the knowledge of a Secretary to the German Embassy and a "Times" correspondent. But it requires investigation, and I have directed inquiries to be made on the subject if possible. But that the fanaticism of the Mahommedans may be roused is far from improbable. The proclamations of the Emperor of Russia have been read by the Turks as a declaration that the Turkish occupation of Bulgaria and Roumelia is to cease, and, coupled with the proceedings of the Russian troops and their Bulgarian allies, they are held to mean that the Mussulman population is to be exterminated. Hitherto the Porte and the local authorities have done something to check the spirit of retaliation and revenge to which this conviction may give rise, but it may be either unable or unwilling to continue to do so. The local authorities in the towns are frequently bigoted, ignorant, and incapable. They usually take to flight as soon as there are mere rumours of the approach of the Russians, and leave the population without protection or restraint. Outbursts of fanaticism and bloodshed may be the result. However, according to the reports that I have transmitted to your Lordship from Mr. Blunt and our other Consular Agents in Roumelia, a good understanding exists as yet between the Mahommedans and Christians in that province, and the superior authorities and notables have done their best to maintain it. But events may occur to put an end to it, and it is by no means impossible that, if the Russian advance continues, terrible massacres may take place. The Porte has warned

the European Powers that the state of exasperation to which the Mussulman population is being brought by accounts of the outrages inflicted upon their brethren may lead to them.

It cannot be said that what is occurring and what is threatened is unexpected. It is but an inevitable result of a war deprecated by every one who had the real interests of humanity and civilization at heart.

I shall consider it my duty to continue to transmit to your Lordship such accounts of outrages, whether Russian, Bulgarian or Turkish, as reach me from official sources, but with the reserve previously mentioned, that I cannot hold myself accountable for their truth. At the same time I will do my best to obtain such trustworthy information on the subject as its nature will permit me to procure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 837.)
Therapia, July 25, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Major-General Sir A. Kemball describing the state of Kars after the siege and the progress of military operations in Armenia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 25.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard.

Head-quarters Camp, Weiran Kalaa, July 10, 1877.

Sir,

I SUBJOIN three telegrams which I have addressed to your Excellency since the 6th instant, the date of my last despatch.

I am now bound to admit that Mukhtar Pasha's information of the strength of the Russian forces, as reported by me to your Excellency, though derived from Circassian scouts and spies, and varying from day to day, has been, on the whole, more accurate than, judging from the accounts published in the European papers, I could allow myself to believe. I consider it only fair, therefore, to acknowledge that his Excellency's advance in this direction as well as the movement of his right wing in the direction of Bayazid, though deemed by me extremely hazardous, are operations which have been thus far justified by the event. The Russians commenced, on his Excellency's arrival, to move their heavy baggage and siege guns to Kerek-dereh, and last night they struck their tents and transferred their camp, unmolested, to the same place. Mukhtar Pasha is assured that the reinforcements available to the Russians south of the Caucasus are very insignificant in number, and, inasmuch as they could not resume offensive operations with less than two additional divisions, nor could bring these into the field under two months or before winter, he believes that the campaign in Armenia may be regarded as closed for the present year.

The Russians had made little or no progress in the siege of Kars, nor had succeeded in planting their batteries within 4,000 yards of the main line of defences on the north front, formed by the Kara Dagh and Kara Putlak (Arab Zabich), and Muldiss Pasha's Zabich works. After twenty-one days bombardment only one Turkish gun was struck. The parapets remained uninjured, damages being repaired during the night. Not a magazine was exploded, though their position was evidently well-known to the enemy, who directed a heavy fire upon them, and of the garrison the loss was limited to 85 killed and 155 wounded. The town was spared, three only of the inhabitants being killed and as many wounded by chance shells. The ground around and behind the front attacked was literally ploughed up in every direction and covered with fragments and splinters of shells. I observed that provisions of all kinds were cheap and abundant, and the garrison appeared to be well supplied with ammunition. There was no unusual sickness among the troops, and the wounded were well provided for.

The information relating to the Russian forces is derived from the diary of a surgeon who was killed while tending the sick and wounded in a village.* He speaks of the foolhardiness of invading Armenia with 50,000 men, but excuses it on the ground of the Turkish troops being comparable to flocks of sheep.

We hear that the Kurdish levies attached to Faik Pasha's force have been guilty of the atrocity of massacring prisoners of war, who had surrendered on terms at Bayazid; also of their stripping 150 prisoners of war proceeding under escort to Van. Mukhtar Pasha essentially admits the fact as having occurred some fifteen days ago, but extenuates it in some of the worst particulars reported, the correctness of which I am not in a position to judge. His Excellency assures me that he has ordered the miscreants principally concerned to be shot. My information of this occurrence is derived solely from correspondents at Erzeroum, and is, I am aware, in the possession of your Excellency. I regret that none of my staff could be present at Bayazid on the arrival there of Faik Pasha. He had, however, by many days anticipated the advance of the Turkish right wing under Ismail Pasha and Reis Ahmed Pasha, checked, as it was, by the leisurely retreat of General Derkokhasoff as far as Diadin, and Captains MacCalmont and Trotter, who accompanied this wing a little beyond Kilias (where they witnessed the action of the 21st) had been compelled by illness to return for a few days to Erzeroum to recruit their health. They are now proceeding to rejoin the head-quarters of the Turkish right wing at or near Bayazid, under instructions of which I submit a copy for your Excellency's information. I have made them acquainted with the reports since received of Kurdish atrocities, and have desired them to remonstrate in the strongest manner on every suitable occasion against their recurrence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. KEMBALL.

NOTE.—I before reported that the Russian left wing had quitted the main road to Bayazid, near Kara Kilisseh. This, it seems, was an error. Mukhtar Pasha has since informed me that it kept the main road as far as Diadin, and there took a cross road to Balykli Gol and the Russian frontier.

Inclosure 2 in No. 25.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Captains McCalmont and Trotter.

Kars, July 9, 1877.

Gentlemen,

AS soon as Captain Trotter shall have completed his survey of the defences of Kars, or shall have corrected the plan in his possession by any that may be placed at his disposal by the Turkish military authorities, I desire that you will proceed in company to join the headquarters of the right wing of this army, moving in the direction of Bayazid, and remain with them to observe the operations in that quarter, pending further notice from me, unless illness or other unforeseen cause should in your discretion require your return to Erzeroom. You will be good enough to report your proceedings direct to Sir Collingwood Dickson, for the information of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reserving copies of your letters for my perusal when we meet. I shall also be glad to hear from you whenever opportunity offers, or you may have anything of interest to communicate.

I regret that you should have left Erzeroom on the last occasion without bringing with you the Dragoman, whom I had engaged at very considerable expense for your service. I will, by to-day's messenger, direct him to join you at Khorassan.

I am prepared to advance to you any moneys you may require, and you will do well to provide yourselves at once with stores that may be obtainable here. Mr. Zohrab will always be ready to attend to your requisitions in Erzeroom.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

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* Another version is, that "the doctor headed the piquet which defended the village, and was killed in fighting the Kurds."

No. 26.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 838. Most Confidential.)

Therapia, July 25, 1877.

My Lord,

A HIGHLY respectable foreign gentleman in the service of the Porte called upon me this morning, on the part of a Christian functionary of the highest rank, and one whose loyalty to the Turkish Government cannot be called in question. This person, who has the best possible means of knowing what is going on in Constantinople, wished me to be informed that there were grave reasons for apprehending that a spirit of exasperation and revenge against the Christians was growing up in the capital, which might lead, at any moment, to the most serious results. This spirit was stimulated by the presence of the large number of the victims of the war, who were coming daily to the city, and by the accounts that were published in the Turkish newspapers with the sanction of the Porte, of the atrocities alleged to be committed by the Russians and Bulgarian Christians upon the Mahomedan population. There were, it is well known, Russian agents who were doing their best to make use of this feeling to provoke some outrage by a Christian on a Mahomedan, or *vice versâ*, which might lead to a massacre, and enable Russia to declare that the occupation and retention of Constantinople was absolutely necessary in the cause of humanity.

I was asked whether, in view of this threatening danger, I would suggest to Her Majesty's Government that some ships of war should be sent to Constantinople from Besika Bay for the protection of the Christian population, as, at the present moment, the capital is almost denuded of troops, every available regiment having been sent to Adrianople to oppose the Russian advance on this side of the Balkans.

I should not have transmitted this communication to your Lordship unless it had come from a person who has the very best means of obtaining information, and who can speak with authority. Up to the present moment I have not received any trustworthy information as to the probability of an outbreak in Constantinople, although great alarm exists on the subject amongst Christians and Europeans. Many of the latter are sending away their families, and for some time past some of the most wealthy Greeks have been leaving the capital.

I inclose a translation of a letter about Russian atrocities, published the day before yesterday in the "Bassiret," a Turkish newspaper which has a large circulation. I had hoped that the Porte, which suppresses and suspends newspapers in other languages for propagating false news, would have prevented the publication of such mischievous matter. I shall speak very strongly on the subject to the Grand Vizier the first time I see his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Letter published in Turkish Newspaper "Bassiret" of July 23, 1877.

(Traduction.)

LE "Bassiret," dans sa feuille d'hier 23 Juillet, publie une lettre de son correspondant de Shoumla concernant les atrocités Russes en Bulgarie. Celui-ci raconte qu'ayant entendu parler de ces horreurs, il a voulu constater de ses propres yeux ce qui se passait, et s'étant mis d'accord avec quelques amis il partit de Shoumla avec eux se dirigeant vers les villages de Tirnovo. Chemin faisant ils rencontrèrent d'abord une foule de femmes et d'enfants gisant par terre exténués de fatigue et dans un état de misère extrême. Il y en avait même qui étaient blessés. Cette foule provenait des villages de Tirnovo et se rendait à Shoumla fuyant devant les Russes, qui avaient massacré la partie male de la population. Ces femmes engagèrent les voyageurs d'aller un peu plus loin pour contempler des choses bien plus navrantes. En effet, dit le correspondant, en avançant dans notre route nous avons cru traverser un pays qui avait été visité par un tremblement de terre et dont l'écroulement des édifices et l'ébonlement des montagnes avaient écrasé la population. Ça et là sur une certaine étendue de terrain étaient dispersés les membres mutilés d'environ 200 femmes et enfants impitoyablement massacrés par les Russes. J'ai vu, dit-il, entre autres une femme dont on avait coupé le sein, qui était encore dans l'agonie de la

mort, et dont l'enfant avait été, par ermuté, mis sur son sein ensanglanté pour y chercher la nourriture absente. On sauva l'enfant mais la mère expira sous les yeux des voyageurs. Plus loin encore ils rencontrèrent les cadavres de dix femmes que les Russes, après avoir assouvi leurs passions sur elles, ont massacré sans pitié. La route tout le long était encombré de fuyards qui portaient plus ou moins des traces des mauvais traitements infligés par les Russes.

No. 27.

Lord Lyons to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 640. Very Confidential.)

Paris, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Duc Decazes said to me this afternoon that he could not help feeling uneasy about the attitude of Austria. There could, he thought, be little doubt that she was now making preparations to occupy some part of Turkey. In fact, events seemed to be confirming the information he had received that a formal agreement existed between Russia and Austria, in virtue of which Austria was to occupy Bosnia.

It appeared, the Duke went on to say, that Servia was putting on foot an army of 18,000 or 19,000 men. This, of course, would be a very insignificant addition to the Russian army; but it might have a powerful effect in provoking or keeping alive an insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Indeed, it seemed that M. Ristitch already held in his hand the threads of the Bosnian insurrection. Of course a movement made under his auspices would be for the annexation of Bosnia to Servia. On the other hand, the Montenegrins seemed to be gaining advantages over the small Turkish force which had remained to oppose them, and they might set up a claim to Herzegovina. Then the drama or the comedy would be played out, and a pretext would be given to Austria for guarding against these annexations by occupying the two provinces herself.

Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador, also said to me this afternoon that Austria seemed to be getting ready to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina. He added that he thought she was quite right to do so. Hitherto she had been wise in remaining quiet, but the time had come, the Prince thought, when she should take possession of some pledge against the creation of adverse Slave States on her frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 28.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 1.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 31 Juillet, 1877.

DANS un combat livré le 5 Juin dernier à Martinik, trois de nos soldats tombés entre les mains des Monténégrins ont eu les oreilles, les lèvres et le nez coupés. En outre, les Monténégrins, au mépris des stipulations de la Convention de Genève, dirigent leur tir sur nos hôpitaux surmonté du croissant rouge et sur nos infirmiers portant le brassard; c'est ainsi que le médecin, Ahmed Houlloussi Effendi, a été blessé.

No. 29.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 1.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 31 Juillet, 1877.

LES Russes ont attaqué hier en trois colonnes les troupes se trouvant sous le commandement d'Osman Pacha à Lofteha. Après un violent combat, qui a duré jusqu'à la nuit, l'ennemi a été repoussé.

No. 30.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

(No. 317.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, July 31, 1877.

PORTE informs me that the battle between army under Osman Pasha and Russians, near Plevna, commenced yesterday, ended to-day in a complete victory for the former, and that the defeated Russian army retired.

No. 31.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

Vienna, August 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

AFTER forwarding my telegram yesterday evening, I learned that the army corps only which may be eventually mobilized will be sent to Servian frontier, and that the division will be added to the force in Dalmatia, from which it may be presumed that an accession of territory by Montenegro in the Herzegovina will be opposed by Austria.

No. 32.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

Athens, August 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GREEK Government have decided to call out the men of the 2nd Army Reserve, in addition to the 1st, and to mobilize the National Guard, in order to send army to the frontier.

Any force which can now be collected must be insignificant in number, as well as in efficiency.

But it is evident that the Government intend to pursue an adventurous policy, and are preparing to occupy Thessaly and Epirus in the event of Austria occupying Bosnia.

No. 33.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

Bucharest, August 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WELLESLEY reports crushing defeat of Russians at Plevna on Monday. Absolutely exposing right flank of the Balkan advance.

Russians lost three brigades, entirely annihilated.

No. 34.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 1.)

St. Petersburgh, August 1, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram of Grand Duke Nicholas from Tirnova, dated yesterday, says that on 30th General Krudener again attacked Plevna, but without success.

Particulars unknown, but will be communicated when obtained.

No. 35.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 396.)

Foreign Office, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 806 of the 19th ultimo, reporting the settlement of the difficulty which had arisen between the Porte and the Greek Government,

owing to the expulsion from the Island of Crete of M. Philon, a Greek subject, and I have to state to you that your proceedings in this matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 36.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 103.)
(Decypher.)
My Lord,

Tiflis, July 21, 1877.

TOTAL of the regular infantry near Ardahan at present is 8,000, at Alexandropol 25,000 with General Tergukassof, 11,000 at Sugdidi, 18,000 at Ozurget, 7,000 near Tiflis: 1,000 as strength of each battalion now. 40th Division expected here to-day, also some militia from Russia; great discord among Generals; transport deficient; calibre of their siege-guns against Kars, twenty-four pounds—they were quite harmless.

Sixteen millions paper currency has been lately secretly issued at St. Petersburgh.

All the militia ran away at battle at Zewin, two batteries also lost; panic was intense in the Grand Duke's camp, and His Imperial Highness went to Alexandropol. Forts at Kars not at all damaged. Russian camp retired near Alexandropol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. T. RICKETTS.

No. 37.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 70. Political.)
My Lord,

Galatz, July 28, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 56, Political, of the 14th June last, on the subject of a subscription by the Greeks at Galatz in aid of an insurrectionary movement in Crete, I have the honour to report that the total sum raised amounted to about 200,000 fr.

Lists have been opened at the Greek Consulates at Galatz and Ibraila for the registration of volunteers for the Greek army, and about 200 names have been inscribed at Galatz and about 300 at Ibraila. Arrangements are in progress for sending these men to Trieste.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 38.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 2.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 1 Août, 1877.

LE Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople nous transmet la liste suivante de nouveaux actes de barbarie et de cruauté commis par les Russes et les Bulgares dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople.

Le Lundi, 23 Juillet, les Bulgares du district d'Eski-Saghra ont blessé Azizé et Fatma Hanems du village de Torkhan. Le même jour, les Bulgares ont blessé cinq Musulmans du village de Baba Muslim. A Ala-dagh quatre Musulmans ont été mis à mort, Ahmed et Mustapha du village d'Echekdji, une enfant de deux ans nommée Zoliha, et Fatma Hanem de Gulfar Tirnovo ont été blessés à coups de fusils et de bayonnette. A Hazir-Baba, village du district de Hassan Moustapha Pacha, Hassan et Kodja Mehmed ont reçu des blessures auxquelles ils ont succombé. Douze émigrés d'Arabli et d'Ambarli, parmi lesquels des femmes et des enfants, ont été massacrés. Des actes semblables ont été commis à Selimno, Yeni-Saghra, Yamboli et dans d'autres localités du Vilayet d'Andrinople. Tous les blessés et les corps de Hassan et de

Kodja ont été transportés à Andrinople; le Consul et le Vice-Consul d'Angleterre, ainsi que le Correspondant du "Times," ont constaté eux-mêmes l'état de ces malheureux. Les habitants de Torlak, district de Rasgrad, a sept heures de distance de Roustchouk, et dont les deux-tiers sont des Chrétiens, ayant refusé de faire leur soumission, leurs maisons au nombre de 400 et leurs églises ont été incendiées par les Russes. A l'entrée des Russes à Hazir Bey, village du district d'Eski-Saghra, 400 Musulmans, qui s'y étaient réunis de différents côtés, et parmi lesquels des femmes et des enfants, ont été massacrés sans distinction d'âge ni de sexe. Un Musulman et trois femmes, dont deux blessées, et leurs enfants ont seuls pu échapper au massacre. Plus le trente Musulmans qui avaient émigré de Tirnovo ont été enlevés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares, qui les ont transportés de force en cette ville après avoir obligés les femmes à se vêtir du costume des Chrétiennes.

Réouf Pacha nous télégraphie, de son côté, les faits suivants qui ont eu pour théâtre la contrée où opère son armée:—

Les villages Musulmans du district d'Eski-Saghra subissent des cruautés inouies de la part de l'ennemi. Dans un village près de Gullu, tous les habitants mâles ont été massacrés; les femmes ont été obligées par la force de changer leurs noms et d'enlever leurs voiles. Plusieurs Musulmans ont été tués dans les campagnes. La plupart des Musulmans de Gullu même ont été massacrés; puis leurs femmes et leurs enfants ont été enfermés dans un grenier et brûlés vifs. A Karadja-Viran, les Bulgares, après avoir désarmés les Musulmans, ont massacré cinq d'entre eux et une femme, qu'ils ont mise en morceaux; ils ont traîné les survivants dans une église et les ont obligés d'abjurer leur religion. Attaqués par les troupes Impériales, ces Bulgares ont pris la fuite, après avoir incendié leurs maisons.

No. 39.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 2.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Août, 1877.*
(Confidentielle.)

SON Excellence Sadoullah Bey vient de m'envoyer le télégramme confidentiel suivant:—

"J'ai appris d'une personne ordinairement bien renseignée que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg aurait fait connaître au Roi Victor Emmanuel que l'Empereur Alexandre n'aurait pas d'objection à ce que l'Italie fasse l'annexion qui lui conviendrait sur le littoral Adriatique, dans le cas où l'Autriche viendrait à se déclarer ouvertement contre la Russie. Sa Majesté aurait répondu que, par égard pour l'Angleterre, qu'il était de l'intérêt de l'Italie de ménager autant que possible, il ne lui conviendrait pas de se départir de sa neutralité."

Veuillez prendre des informations et me télégraphier ce qu'il y a de vrai dans cette nouvelle.

No. 40.

Consul Blunt to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, August 1, 1877, 2 P.M.*

HADJI HUSSEIN PASHA announces from Karabounar to military authorities here that Suleiman Pasha recaptured Eski Zagra yesterday from Russians, who were forced to retire after losing three or four guns, munitions, and many killed and wounded.

No. 41.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wellesley to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Bjela, August 1, 1877.*

IT appears extremely probable that the Russians must retire north of the Balkans in consequence of the defeat last Monday, in which case a second campaign is inevitable.

No. 42.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 319.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 1, 1877, 5 P.M.*

PORTE informs me that Suleiman Pasha has entered Eski Zagra, after gaining a pitched battle over the Russians, who lost some guns and a number of men. Atrocities on Mussulmans continue.

No. 43.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 320.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1877.*

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs following, dated yesterday:—

"I have returned from railway station, where I witnessed three hours ago arrival of a long train containing, besides 350 wounded soldiers and some 400 fugitives, Turkish women and children rescued by Circassians and Turkish troops from districts occupied by Russians. These fugitives are in a most destitute condition, several of the women and children bearing wounds inflicted, as they positively affirm, by Russian Cossacks and Bulgarians. One woman I saw with a bullet-shot through her right thigh; two women with sword-cuts on their hands; one infant, scarcely two years old, with a sword-cut under its right armpit, and another three years old with a lance-gash on its right thigh; another child eighteen months old now an orphan, both father and mother having been massacred. The above facts have been verified by me in presence of the Directors of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Mr. Black and Mr. Schnell, the Belgian Consul, and other Europeans. A Turkish officer who came by same train declared to me on oath that the Cossacks have, to his knowledge, been committing on women and children in the Toundja valley barbarities similar to the above and worse.

No. 44.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 321.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1877, 11·15 A.M.*

PORTE gives the most absolute and explicit denial to Consul Zohrab's statement that orders have been given to the Ottoman army, on entering Russian territory, to spare only women and children. I have called upon Consul Zohrab to give me his authority for his statement.

No. 45.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 322.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1877.*

PORTE telegraphed yesterday to authorities at Batoum to inform them of expected arrival by Ozourget and Bulel of Turks referred to in your telegram of 27th ultimo.

No. 46.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 2.*)

(No. 323.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 2, 1877, 11·40 A.M.*

GENERAL KEMBALL telegraphs on the 30th July:—

"Russians have to-day moved forward extreme left camp from Dashkalé to Ani, fifteen miles from our outposts. This force appears to consist mainly of new reinforcements; if so, Russians may be expected to resume offensive operations soon."

No. 47.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 842.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 26, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter from Mr. Consul Blunt, dated from Philippopolis the 22nd instant, relating to the state of feeling between the Mahommedan and Christian populations.

The telegram which Mr. Blunt states that he sent me with reference to the massacre of Christian Bulgarians by Bashi-Bazouks at Yeni-Zaghra did not reach me. It may have been stopped by the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 47.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Philippopolis, July 22, 1877.

(Extract.)

YOUR Excellency will have gathered from my despatches and letters since I left Adrianople, that I have been doing my utmost to promote friendly feelings and mutual confidence between Turks and Christians, in order to prevent acts of retaliation on the part of the former; but I very much fear that if the Russians continue their progress by burning Turkish villages and committing cruelties on the inoffensive Mahommedan inhabitants, some terrible acts of reprisals will be enacted by the Pomaks and Bashi-Bazouks, large numbers of whom are now under arms. Already, as I telegraphed your Excellency yesterday afternoon, Christian Bulgarians have been massacred at Yeni-Zaghra by Bashi-Bazouks, fugitives, I believe, after their defeat by the Russians. I shall make an inquiry into the matter on my way back to Adrianople.

There are also symptoms of treachery, I am sorry to say, in some of the Bulgarian villages, which may take very serious dimensions should the Russians carry all before them, as they seem to be doing. Some of the leading Turks apprehend that these villages will avail themselves of the presence of the Russians to commit acts of revenge on the Mahommedans.

No. 48.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 843.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 26, 1877.

A GENTLEMAN resident at Constantinople, who has the very best means of knowing what is going on in Bulgaria (I may mention confidentially that I refer to Dr. Washburn, the Principal of the "Robert" College, in which many Bulgarian youths receive their education), has been good enough to inform me of the results of his inquiries as to the truth of the charges against the Russians and Bulgarian Christians of committing outrages and massacres on the Mahommedan population. He says that the Bulgarians acknowledge that Mussulman villages have been sacked after the flight of their inhabitants, but the only case of massacre which they admit is that of the fugitives from Tirnova. They state that several hundred (600 or 700 were the numbers mentioned) Mussulmans were escaping from that place with their wives and children in carts. A body of Cossacks, accompanied by some Bulgarians, overtook them. The fugitives attempted to defend themselves, and some Cossacks, it is alleged, were killed. Their companions then fell upon upon the convoy and slaughtered man, woman, and child.

My informant, upon whose impartiality the utmost reliance can be placed, believes this account to be true, and I conjecture that it was given by a Bulgarian who was at Tirnova at the time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 49.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 844.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 26, 1877.

THE Sheik-el-Islam, Hairullah Effendi, who had given me the impression of a liberal-minded and very intelligent man, has been suddenly dismissed by the Sultan, and Cara Halil Effendi, Fetva Emini, has been named as his successor. I am not yet acquainted with the reasons for this change. I trust that they may not be to place a more severe and intolerant Mussulman in this high and influential religious office. Common report says that the late Sheikh-el-Islam was too much inclined to peace to suit those in the counsels of the Sultan, who are determined to carry on the war at all hazards.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have just heard that Hairullah Effendi was dismissed because he was in favour of peace, and against an appeal to the Mussulmans to turn the present war into a "Jehad," or religious war. His successor, I am assured, is a fanatic and very hostile to the Christians.

A. H. L.

No. 50.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 845.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 26, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of an official notice or "bulletin" that was published yesterday in Constantinople calling upon true believers to place themselves under a holy banner brought from the tomb of the Prophet at Mecca, and to take part in the holy war—"Jehad."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Notice.

DE même que tous les hommes patriotes s'empressent de courir à la défense de la patrie dans cette guerre injuste que l'ennemi nous a imposée, de même Hadji Moustapha Effendi, un de ceux qui avaient fait vœu de vivre dans le voisinage du tombeau du Prophète et personnage connu par sa piété et ses vertus, en compagnie de plusieurs autres notables de la Ville Sainte a apporté à Constantinople un drapeau sanctifié qui se trouvait déposé dans le dit tombeau. A partir de Mercredi ce drapeau se trouve placé dans la cour de la mosquée de Sylemmieh.

Les croyants qui désirent se couvrir de gloire dans ce monde et mériter les félicités de la vie future sont invités à se ranger sous le drapeau sacré pour prendre part à la guerre sainte ("Jehad").

No. 51.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 3.)

(No. 846.)
My Lord,
Therapia, July 26, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum respecting the excesses committed by Circassian and other marauders in the Provinces of Amasia and Kharpoot, which I directed Mr. Sandison to read to the Grand Vizier and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Aarifi Pasha did not deny that the state of the country between Samsoun and

Amasia was such as I described it; but his Excellency stated that measures had been taken to put an end to the excesses complained of, the Porte having appointed a new Governor, who had received instructions to provide for the security and tranquillity of the Christian populations of these districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Memorandum.

INFORM Arifi Pasha or the Grand Vizier that Mr. Layard has received from the most trustworthy sources a most deplorable account of the state of the country between Amasia and Samsoun and in the surrounding districts. Armed Circassians and other marauders are robbing, plundering, and killing the inhabitants. Mr. Layard has received a long list of murders committed by them upon inoffensive Christians. The local authorities appear to be entirely indifferent to the just complaints and representations of the people. No measures are taken for the protection of life and property, and justice cannot be obtained.

Mr. Layard has seen a copy of a telegram addressed by the heads of the Armenian and Greek nations and of the Protestant community in Amasia to their respective chiefs in Constantinople, imploring, for the love of God and of the Sultan, that some measures may be taken for their protection, and to restore order.

Mr. Layard is grieved to say that he has received similar accounts from the Province of Van, Kharpoot, and elsewhere.

Therapia, July 26, 1877.

No. 52.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 847.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 27, 1877.

I GAVE Mr. Sandison yesterday a Memorandum, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose, to be read to the Grand Vizier and Arifi Pasha, respecting the publication in the papers of exaggerated accounts of atrocities alleged to have been committed by the Russians on the Mussulman population of Bulgaria, and the danger of exciting a spirit of revenge and retaliation amongst the Mahommedans of Turkey. Mr. Sandison informs me that the Minister for Foreign Affairs gave orders, in his presence, to the Director of the Press to enjoin the editors of the different Turkish newspapers to be moderate and careful in publishing reports of this nature, which are calculated to increase the feelings of exasperation already existing amongst the Mussulmans.

The statements concerning the conduct of Tefik Bey, referred to in my Memorandum, were made to me by Mr. Coningsby, a "Times'" correspondent. I cannot say that I place entire confidence in them. But still the accusation against this functionary of forging telegrams in Mr. Coningsby's name, and of altering his letters without his knowledge, so that they might bear an entirely opposite sense to what was intended, appeared to me so grave that I considered it my duty to bring them to Arifi Pasha's notice. His Excellency said that, knowing as he did Tefik Bey's character, he could hardly believe him capable of the acts laid to his charge, but that nevertheless he would give every attention to the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum.

POINT out to the Grand Vizier and Arifi Pasha the great danger of permitting the newspapers printed here in Turkish, Persian, and Arabic to publish the most exaggerated accounts of cruelties, outrages, and massacres alleged to have been committed by the Russians and by Bulgarian Christians upon the Mussulman population. A spirit of retaliation and revenge may be roused in consequence which it may be hereafter difficult to restrain and repress, and which may lead to the most fatal consequences to the Porte itself.

That there have been outrages and excesses committed may be perfectly true, and they are deeply to be deplored. But it is unnecessary to exaggerate them, and to accept every rumour that reaches Constantinople with regard to them as true, and to publish them and to communicate them to foreign Governments as ascertained and proved facts. It has been reported to me that the official Agent of the Porte at Shumla, Tefik Bey, has not only compelled correspondents of foreign newspapers by threats of expelling them from the place to sign statements with respect to these alleged outrages which were known to be untrue, but that he has actually forged telegraphic messages in their names. It is to be hoped that so grave a charge is untrue, but Mr. Layard has reason to believe that it will be made in so powerful a journal as the "Times." It is even alleged that Tefik Bey, with the assistance of an Englishman, has altered, added to, and entirely perverted the sense of letters sent through the post. Mr. Layard leaves the Porte to judge of the effect that these charges publicly made will have upon public opinion in Europe.

The Porte justly complained that the public feeling of England was excited against it last year by untrue and exaggerated accounts and descriptions of outrages and massacres attributed to the Mussulmans in Bulgaria. It is to be hoped that it will not expose itself to a similar accusation.

Therapia, July 26, 1877.

No. 53.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 198. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, July* 27, 1877.

M. COGALNICEANO came to see me yesterday to announce his early departure for Vienna in connection with the Convention for the Plojesti-Prédial Railway, and to request a letter of introduction for Sir Andrew Buchanan.

In the course of conversation the Minister read to me what purported to be a telegram from Prince Charles, dated from Poiana, the head-quarters of the Moldo-Wallachian army, to the effect that, in consequence of the Russian reverses at Plevna, the Emperor had personally requested that Nicopoli be occupied by the division of General Manu, the telegram going on to say that the above had no reference to any other operations which the Roumanian army might have undertaken.

I remarked upon the words "might have," saying that it had been my impression that the Prince and the Government had quite decided to send the Roumanian army across the Danube above Kalafat, and that he, the Minister, some little time since had encouraged me in that belief.

M. Cogalniceano replied that they no longer desired to send their soldiers over the Danube, that they had no torpedoes and were in want of many other things, all of which was being alleged as the excuse for the previous programme not having come into existence.

The impression which remained upon my mind was, that this Government is as much determined as ever to send their army across the Danube, but that they hope and expect to be pressed to do so by Russia, an arrangement which, rightly or wrongly, they imagine would place Russia under an obligation to Roumania.

It is impossible to place much reliance upon even a moiety of M. Cogalniceano's statements, as he spoke to Mr. Crawley on this subject, no further off than the day before yesterday, in a different sense, namely, to the effect that the occupation of Nicopoli would not deter them from crossing in the teeth of the enemy above Kalafat.

To-day M. Cogalniceano informed me that the Prince had not yet given the

definite orders to General Manu, and that it was probable that some question of military command precedences or etiquette had arisen; an incident which, in my opinion, gives rise to the suspicion that Emperor did not request the assistance of the Roumanians, and it appears to me more probable that, after the mishap at Plevna, Prince Charles has imagined that the moment is arrived when he could extract the expression of a desire for the co-operation of the Roumanians upon the part of the Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 54.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 637.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 30, 1877.

THE press is again occupied with rumours in circulation of an immediate mobilization, which are declared at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to be entirely unfounded. It is generally believed, however, that the question will be submitted to a Council now sitting under the Presidency of the Emperor, and to attend which M. Tisza and the Hungarian Minister of Finance came to Vienna this morning.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 55.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 639. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 31, 1877.

WITH reference to a previous telegram of this date, I now learn that the Emperor was not present at the Council held to-day. It sat for five hours, and was, I understand, principally occupied with questions respecting the Commercial Treaty with Germany, and the quotas payable by Austria and Hungary to the general expenditure of the Monarchy; and I have reason to believe that it is considered impossible to establish a Conventional Tariff with Germany, without re-opening the general compromise, which has been come to between the Governments of Austria and Hungary.

If I am correctly informed, the expediency of immediately mobilizing two corps d'armée was also taken into consideration, and at a Council, at which the Emperor will preside to-morrow, a final decision will be taken on that subject, and also with respect to the commercial negotiations with Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN

No. 56.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 640. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 31, 1877.

THE opinion of military men here as to the present prospects of the war in Turkey appear to be that, if the Turks have lost invaluable opportunities for defeating their enemy or arresting his progress, the Russians have also exposed themselves to disasters by rashly endeavouring to secure a speedy and successful issue of the campaign, by pushing forward into Roumelia a force which cannot be adequately supported. An eminent general officer expressed an opinion to me last night that, with a little energy on the part of the new Commander-in-chief at Shumla, the operations of the Russian army may now be seriously embarrassed; and he stated that, from the last intelligence received of General Gourka's corps south of the Balkans, its communications with the Grand Duke's army are likely to be interrupted.

There is, however, a general conviction that victory will, in the long run, remain with the Russians, whose resources in men and money must be much greater than those of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 57.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 641.)
My Lord,

Vienna, July 31, 1877.

MIDHAT PASHA, who called on me to-day, has informed me that, after a few days' stay here, he proposes to return to London, spending a short time in Paris on his way. His not proceeding to Constantinople is doubtless in consequence of information, which was also contained in a telegram received here to-day from Count Zichy, that his overtures to the Sultan have only obtained for him a permission to return to Turkey, without any hope having been held out to him of being immediately offered official employment.

He spoke to me to-day of the possible objects of the mobilization of a part of the Austrian army, which it is said will take place shortly, and he asked me what I thought the Porte ought to do in the event of Austrian troops entering into Bosnia.

I answered that I could of course only express a personal opinion on the subject, but that I did not believe an occupation of Bosnia was imminent, or that it was likely to take place, as long as the Russians had not become masters of Bulgaria, and the armies of the Porte were not entirely overcome; but were these circumstances to occur, it appeared to me that the Porte would do well, with a view to its own interests, to assume, if an Austrian army entered Turkish territory, that the measure had not been adopted with hostile intentions, but rather that the Austrian Government might be in a position to control the arrangements which may be proposed by Russia as the consequences of the war. I said that I did not mean to intimate that there was no probability of circumstances inducing Austria-Hungary to eventually annex Turkish territory, but that I did not consider her doing so a foregone conclusion, and I was therefore of opinion that it would be impolitic on the part of the Porte to oblige her to appear prematurely in the light of an enemy and an aggressor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 58.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 642. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, August 1, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 471 of the 23rd May, inclosing a Report from Mr. James Long of his proceedings in Bulgaria, I have now the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a further letter which I have received from him respecting the relations of the Turkish and Christian populations in that province, and reporting the efforts which he is making to induce the latter to remain quiet, whatever military operations may take place in the neighbourhood of their villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 58.

Mr. Long to Sir A. Buchanan.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Tatar-Bazárdjik, le 19 Juillet, 1877.

J'AI l'honneur de continuer, pour l'information de votre Excellence, l'historique de mes efforts en Bulgarie. Voilà maintenant sept mois que j'ai été occupé, comme votre Excellence le sait, de porter des secours divers aux victimes de la dernière insurrection. A mon passage à Marseille, fin Mai, j'ai expédié une lettre à votre Excellence lui

racontant les progrès de mon œuvre jusqu'à cette époque, et maintenant je m'empresse de vous communiquer, suivant votre désir, mes impressions depuis, et sur l'état actuel des affaires dans la région de mes opérations.

Ces impressions, je dois le dire à votre Excellence, sont formées après une étude sérieuse faite sur mes ordres par un membre de mon personnel pendant le mois de Mai, et après mes propres observations pendant les six semaines qui viennent de s'écouler. Ce monsieur est un ingénieur civil Français qui a longtemps demeuré en Turquie au service de l'Etat, parlant le Turc, et ayant une connaissance intime du peuple de la Bulgarie, ayant été occupé de la construction de chemins de fer dans cette contrée. Pendant sa tournée, qui a compris tout le pays qui a été la scène des atrocités de l'année dernière, il était accompagné de mon premier drogman Bulgare, homme de confiance, qui m'avait déjà servi fidèlement depuis six mois, et qui dans mon service avait appris à se faire de la question Bulgare une opinion toute différente de celle qu'il avait apporté de Constantinople.

De ces deux messieurs j'ai reçu des rapports distincts et minutieux, chacun se tenant responsable de ses propres opinions. Mais sans entrer dans des détails inutiles, je puis tout brièvement résumer pour votre Excellence les résultats auxquels ils sont arrivés chacun de sa part, en vous racontant tout simplement les résultats de mes propres observations, car ces deux délégués et moi nous sommes parfaitement d'accord sur l'état actuel de cette population.

Leur mission aussi bien que mes propres études n'avait pour but que de me renseigner exactement sur le tempérament du peuple, soit Chrétien, soit Musulman, envers leur Gouvernement et entre eux ; de calmer les esprits, et ensuite de m'informer sur leur état matériel et sur l'effet produit par les larges secours qui leur ont été prodigués pendant l'hiver. Les conclusions auxquelles je me suis arrêté sur cette dernière question, sont que beaucoup de bien leur a été fait, que la population Bulgare est comparativement dans une prospérité renaissante ; leur récolte a été abondante et que, si les horreurs de la guerre n'étaient pas venues dévaster de nouveau le pays, la population Bulgare aurait pu bientôt surmonter tous les désastres de l'année dernière. Elle se plaint comme toujours des impôts, qu'elle trouve naturellement cette année plus lourds qu'auparavant, quoique le Gouvernement se soit montré disposé à être aussi indulgent que possible malgré la crise financière que traverse le pays.

Mais il est inutile d'entretenir votre Excellence plus longuement sur cette question; ce qui vous intéresse sans doute davantage, c'est de connaître la condition des esprits de cette population relativement aux événements de la guerre qui est aujourd'hui à leurs portes.

Avant de traiter cette question, je dois informer votre Excellence, que dans la Bulgarie au sud des Balkans, nous avons trouvé, même avant la déclaration de guerre, de grandes inquiétudes de la part de la population Bulgare, et une méfiance persistante de la population Musulmane, pendant que les Turcs faisaient prétexte, qu'étant en minorité, il fallait se reposer sur leurs armes. Cette population s'est montrée néanmoins disposée à rester tranquille et à s'écarter autant que possible de ce qui se passait au delà des Balkans. Elle a toujours écouté attentivement nos paroles, qui étaient celles de la paix et de la concorde, et elle nous a fait des promesses solennelles de suivre nos conseils.

Je ne puis mieux renseigner votre Excellence à ce rapport, que de vous donner copie de la fin d'un discours que j'adressais le 18 courant aux habitants d'Otlouk-Keui à l'occasion de l'inauguration d'une école que je viens de construire dans cette ville, ainsi que de la réponse qui m'a été faite par cette population. Ces pièces vous trouverez ci-jointes.

Il faut ajouter cependant que d'après de sérieuses études du caractère Bulgare, je n'ai plus grande confiance dans ces promesses. Je crains qu'aussitôt les Russes arrivés de ce côté des Balkans, toutes ces grandes résolutions et promesses ne disparaissent comme un nuage. Mais ce que je crains davantage est qu'un grand malheur les frappera avant que les envahisseurs puissent arriver à leur défense, et cela sans faute actuelle commise de leur part.

D'au delà des Balkans les nouvelles nous arrivent d'une manière indéniable, qu'au fur et à mesure que l'armée Russe avance, les Bulgares, ou des misérables se disant Bulgares, massacrent les malheureux Musulmans, des gens inoffensifs, hommes, femmes, et enfants, l'œuvre dont le triste sort les rend dignes de pitié. Mais vraies ou fausses ces nouvelles se propagent et sont crues partout au sud des Balkans. Ce qui m'effraye donc est de voir les atrocités de l'année dernière se renouveller, même sur une échelle plus grande encore, le pays étant actuellement occupé par un grand nombre de Zeïbeks, Teherkess, &c., troupes indisciplinées qui ne désireront pas mieux

que de se joindre à la population Musulmane dans l'accomplissement de ces tristes actes.

Les Bulgares du nord, ou plutôt ceux qui les mènent, auraient du réfléchir qu'au delà des Balkans il existe un grand nombre de leurs frères de race, et qu'ils exposent ces derniers à subir de sanglantes représailles qui ne sont jamais excusables, mais qui peuvent en quelque sorte se comprendre dans les circonstances aussi terribles que celles que nous traversons,—représailles contre lesquelles le Gouvernement, même avec la meilleure volonté du monde, pourra se trouver impuissant d'abriter cette population Bulgare.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JAMES LONG.

Inclosure 2 in No. 58.

Conclusion of Speech addressed by Mr. Long to the Inhabitants of Otlouk-Keui, July 18, 1877.

[See Inclosure 2 in No. 9.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 58.

Reply made by the Inhabitants of Otlouk-Keui to the Speech of Mr. Long.

[See Inclosure 3 in No. 9.]

No. 59.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 3.*)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Août*, 1877.

SULEIMAN PACHA, après un combat qu'il a livré à l'ennemi, a fait Mardi son entrée à Eski-Zaghra. Quelques canons sont tombés en notre pouvoir. Les Russes ont subi des pertes considérables.

Les atrocités commises par les Cosaques et les Bulgares ne discontinuent pas. Des femmes et des enfants qui s'étaient réfugiés à Khidir-keui ont été massacrés. D'autres familles qui avaient été enfermées dans des greniers ont été délivrées par nos troupes. Parmi elles, plusieurs femmes et enfants étaient blessés. Les Bulgares ont mis à feu et à sang le village Musulman de Lofedji et plusieurs autres, après avoir emmené les femmes et les filles qu'ils massacrèrent en leur faisant subir les derniers outrages et en les mutilant horriblement ; une mère et ses deux fils ont pu seuls être sauvés.

No. 60.

Vice-Consul Sankey to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 3.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Braila, August 2*, 1877.

YESTERDAY, Sunday, battery Kustendje fired three shots at two Turkish iron-clads blockading the port. This morning at 9·30 iron-clads began firing at Russian batteries. No damage to town; Russian mounting larger guns.

No. 61.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 3.*)

(No. 324. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 2*, 1877, 10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of 28th ultimo, recent successes in Bulgaria and Roumelia have made the Turkish Ministers so confident of being able to repulse

Russians that I have reason to believe that the Sultan could not at this time either propose or listen to conditions of peace. I have informed him secretly that should there be a favourable opportunity of opening negotiations for peace he may rely on the friendly offices of Her Majesty's Government. I do not think that anything more can be done at present.

No. 62.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 3.)

(No. 326. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 3, 1877, 1·15 P.M.*

I HAVE learnt, from I think a trustworthy source, that the Greek Government is seeking to pick a quarrel with Turkey, and that the Greek Minister here is doing his best with that object. The German Ambassador authorized him yesterday to telegraph to Athens that Austria will occupy Bosnia immediately, and it may be suspected that Germany is inciting Greece to attack Turkey.

No. 63.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 3, 1877, 5·50 P.M.*

THERE is a question in the House of Commons on Monday as to efficiency of Black Sea blockade.

Please reply to telegrams of July 17, 19, and 21.

No. 64.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 66. Political.)
Bosna-Serai, July 20, 1877.

My Lord,

NOTWITHSTANDING the measures taken by the Turkish authorities for the suppression of the insurrection in Bosnia, no result seems to have been obtained as yet. Only a few days since a band of insurgents came within six miles of the town of Livno, and carried off about 1,000 head of horned cattle and 2,000 small cattle. The Colonel in command of the troops at Livno pretends that there were at least 2,000 insurgents, and that, therefore, he was unable to oppose them. It is highly improbable, however, that they were so numerous, but of course the Colonel felt obliged to excuse his inactivity.

Halil Bey, the Chief of the police force, whom I stated in my despatch No. 65, Political, of the 13th instant to have been sent to the district of Bihatch in pursuit of insurgent bands, reports that as yet he has met with none, and has not, therefore, so far justified the confidence placed in him.

The Governor-General informs me that four more battalions, shortly expected from Albania, are to be sent to the north-west of this province to assist in the suppression of the revolt.

I would, however, again represent to your Lordship the utter futility of these expeditions against the insurgents. Conducted as they are, and without the sincere co-operation of Austria, no possible result can be obtained; and this continual moving to and fro of troops in the country, and the consequent repeated requisitions on the peasants for luggage-horses, only serves to impoverish the country and harass the peaceably-disposed inhabitants. If peace be concluded with Russia, and an improved system of administration introduced into this province, the insurrection, discountenanced by the Austrian frontier authorities and people, must collapse of itself. I am convinced, from my own personal observations, that, with the exception of some few of the chiefs, the insurgents have no political aspirations. They have lost, I believe, what faith they formerly had in their leader Despotovich, who now appears to pass his time in perfect inactivity, either at Tzerni Potok or Resanovtze, but they cannot be expected to lay down their arms under existing circumstances.

In the Herzegovina matters seem quiet for the moment. The Montenegrins are temporarily exhausted after the severe struggle they have gone through, and will probably not attempt any movement just at present. In the meantime reinforcements to the Turkish army are gradually arriving, three battalions from Vishegrad and Chainitza having already passed through Serajevo on their way to the Herzegovina. The Ferik, Ali Pasha, is, however, quite unfit to be charged with the supreme command; and, I believe, that the Governor-General, Mahzar Pasha, has recommended that he should be superseded by Salik Zeki Pasha, late Commandant at Belina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 65.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 67. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 20, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a general levy has been ordered of all the Mussulman inhabitants of this province between the ages of eighteen and seventy, for the defence of their country.

This force will bear the name of "Asakir Mouavineh," or auxiliary troops. It will be divided into three classes, as follows:—

1. Men in good health and circumstances.
2. Men in good health but poor.
3. Men weakly and indigent.

The first class may be called upon to serve in any part of the province; the second only within the sandjak and districts where they live; and the third will not be required to go beyond their absolute place of residence.

These troops will be divided into companies of 100, and each company commanded by a "Yuzbashi" or Captain, two sergeants (Tchaoush), and ten corporals (Onbashi), selected from their number for their ability and intelligence. Over every ten companies of infantry and every two companies of cavalry will be appointed a Major (Binbashi). The officers and men of the "zaptieh" or police will be charged with the instructions of these troops.

When employed on active service away from their homes the men of the first and second will receive rations at the rate of 300 drams (2 lbs.) of bread and 60 drams (7 oz.) of meat per diem. The cavalry will receive, in addition, forage for their horses at the rate of 3 okes (8¼ lbs.) of barley and 4 okes (11¼ lbs.) of hay per diem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 66.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 68. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 21, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 66, Political, of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have just seen his Excellency the Governor-General, who informs me that the Porte has come to an arrangement with the Austro-Hungarian Government for the suppression of the insurrection in Bosnia. The military authorities here have been ordered to concert measures with the Austrian officers on the frontier, and Major Omer Bey of the staff will proceed to Livno and the Dalmatian frontier for that purpose. The civil authority is not to interfere in any of the arrangements.

His Excellency also informs me that several small bands of Montenegrins have made their appearance in the Herzegovina in the neighbourhood of Trebigné and Nevesain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 67.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 291. Confidential.) *Rome, July 30, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAD a conversation with M. Melegari this morning, in which his Excellency gave the most emphatic denial to the reports which have recently been in circulation relative to the ambitious projects of Italy.

He protested against the idea of Italy having a secret understanding with Russia to the prejudice of any other State. Italy, his Excellency said, did not covet any portion of Albania, and it was perfectly untrue that the Government had done anything to authorize such a supposition.

All these stories, his Excellency said, were got up at Vienna and at Pesth. He did not accuse the Austrian Cabinet; but there was a certain party in Austria whose views found expression in the press, and whose principal occupation seemed to be to invent tales of Italian ambition and intrigue calculated to rouse public opinion against Italy, and to create a bad feeling between the two countries. This M. Melegari very much regretted, as his great object was that the relations between the two countries should be on the most friendly footing.

His Excellency went on to say that the policy of the Italian Government continued to be what it had always been, strict neutrality in the present war; a desire that it should be limited to the two actual belligerents; and a readiness to contribute, as far as was in their power, to the re-establishment of peace at the earliest possible moment.

His Excellency then alluded to the reported possible occupation of Gallipoli by British troops, and asked if I could give him any information on the subject.

I said I knew nothing whatever of the intentions of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, but I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government would not adopt any measure which they did not think absolutely necessary for the protection of the interests of the British Empire; and as I had always understood from his Excellency that he considered the interests of Italy in the Eastern Question to be identical with those of Great Britain, I concluded that if a moment should come when Her Majesty's Government might think it indispensable to send an expedition to Gallipoli, such a decision could not but meet with the approbation of the Italian Government.

M. Melegari replied that it was not for him to judge the policy of Her Majesty's Government; but his desire was that the present war should be localized, and he could not help apprehending that the dispatch of a British force to Gallipoli might make it general.

I did not think it necessary to discuss this matter any further.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 68.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 293. Most Confidential.) *Rome, July 30, 1877.*

My Lord,

COUNT TORNIELLI, whom I saw after leaving M. Melegari this morning, told me that according to information received from the Italian Ambassador at Vienna, which, however, he begged might be considered as most confidential, it seemed probable that a part of the Austrian army was likely to be mobilized with the view to occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina, and General Robillant added that he thought it not unlikely that this would be accompanied by "certain military precautions" on the frontier of Italy. The meeting of the Hungarian with the Austrian Ministers, which had been announced, was, according to the intelligence received by General Robillant, for the purpose of discussing these questions.

Count Tornielli spoke strongly as to the bad effect which would be produced in Italy by the adoption of these measures. It would give rise to agitation throughout the country, and would place the Government in a very difficult position.

Count Tornielli then discussed at some length the question of the relations

between Austro-Hungary and Italy, and entered into the reasons why an Austrian occupation of Herzegovina and Bosnia would be injurious to the interests of Italy.

Your Lordship may possibly recollect that I reported (see my despatch No. 40 of the 13th of February last) a conversation which I had with him on the same subject at the beginning of this year; a conversation, however, which M. Melegari subsequently requested might be taken no notice of, as reported in my despatch No. 52 of the 17th of February.

I should not, therefore, think it necessary to make any allusion to Count Tornielli's further observations on this question were it not that M. Depretis, whom I called on shortly afterwards, spoke to me very much in the same sense.

His Excellency did not make any reference to the supposed intention of the Austro-Hungarian Government to take "certain military precautions" on the frontier of Italy, but he spoke very decidedly as to the agitation which would inevitably arise in Italy if Austria should take possession of the provinces alluded to.

M. Depretis declared that the Italian Government had themselves no ambitious projects whatever, that they desired to cultivate the most friendly relations with Austria; the two Governments were about, his Excellency said, to recommence negotiations on a matter of the highest importance to both Powers—the Commercial Treaty, but he had the conviction that if Herzegovina and Bosnia were annexed to the Austrian Empire, a feeling would be aroused in Italy which would be anything but favourable to the carrying out of friendly negotiations between the two Governments, and that a pressure would be put upon the Italian Government to take some action which they would very much regret, which they might possibly be able to avoid, but which, if they did resist, would place them in a very difficult position. His Excellency went, indeed, so far as to give me to understand that it would certainly lead to the overthrow of the Ministry; and this will be the better understood when I mention that amongst the advanced section of the Ministerial supporters are to be found, with Signor Caisoli at their head, some of the most ardent advocates of an active policy in foreign affairs, and especially in regard to the Trentino question. They have, indeed, formed themselves into a sort of Committee for superintending the foreign policy of the Government, and are continually agitating through their press or in other ways.

In replying to M. Depretis, I argued, as I have always done in my conversations with Count Tornielli, that I could not see in what possible way the annexation by Austria of Bosnia or Herzegovina could be injurious to the interests of Italy or be construed into a menace against her. It was perfectly certain, I said, that if she adopted the measure in question, it would only be because she could not do otherwise. No one could suppose that the accession of these two Slav provinces would prove a source of strength to the Austrian Empire. It was clear at all events that the Cabinet of Vienna did not think so, for otherwise the occasions had not been wanting during the last two years when the annexation might have been effected with the approbation or at the instigation of other Governments. If, therefore, the annexation had been hitherto resisted by the Austrian Cabinet on account probably of its being likely to weaken instead of strengthening the Austro-Hungarian Empire, why, I inquired, if it at last took place, should it be regarded with jealousy by Italy?

As for its placing Austria in a better position for attacking Italy, I must in the first place observe that I thought nothing more unlikely than that Austria should ever contemplate such an undertaking. The whole conduct of Austria since the conclusion of the peace—the visit of the Emperor to Venice—were proofs of the desire of the Emperor and his Government to live on friendly terms with Italy. In the next place, supposing, for argument sake, that Austria ever should entertain hostile intentions towards Italy, it appeared to me that she could embark her troops just as easily from Fiume, to which place there was railway communication, as from any other point lower down on the coast more difficult of access. I considered it should be one of the main objects of Italian policy to make a firm ally of Austria instead of doing anything to arouse her suspicions.

M. Depretis said he admitted the truth of these observations, but the country would not look at the matter in the same light; all they would see would be the annexation of a considerable territory by a neighbouring Power—already in a commanding position in the Adriatic—and his Excellency repeated that the Government would have great difficulty in resisting the pressure which would be put on them.

To this I replied that it would be far better the Government should have internal difficulties to contend with than that they should do anything which might expose the country to the fearful dangers of a foreign war. I could not, therefore, I said, urge

the Italian Government too strongly to observe an attitude of perfect calm, whether Bosnia and Herzegovina were annexed by Austria or not; to make no military demonstration or preparations entailing a useless expenditure of several millions, which Italy could ill-afford, whatever might happen in Austria, and, above all, not to raise any claim to territorial compensation, which would certainly be refused and resented by Austria. I spoke of the uncertain state of things in France and of the possibility, if the elections went in favour of the present Ministry, of Italy, unless she was extremely prudent, finding herself involved with both France and Austria; and finally, I dwelt on how much Italy would gain in the estimation of foreign countries by remaining perfectly quiet and passive, and how much she would certainly lose if she became the cause of further trouble in Europe.

M. Depretis replied that he was fully alive to the gravity of these considerations. Italy, he said, not only desired, but had the most urgent need of peace. The Government would not allow themselves to be drawn into the adoption of measures they did not approve; but his Excellency again referred to the great difficulty they would have in maintaining their position.

Count Tornielli, who, owing to special circumstances, has a very important voice in the foreign policy of the country, seemed to think, I am sorry to say, that if Austria invaded Bosnia and Herzegovina, it would be necessary that Italy should take some steps in consequence, particularly if the military precautions alluded to on the Italian frontier were carried out.

I was struck indeed by the difference of his tone to-day with what it has been on previous occasions in speaking on the same question. He has always, up to now, denied that there was any feeling in the country generally on the Trentino question, and such, as I have before said, has been my own impression, and I have seen nothing as yet to make me change it; but to-day Count Tornielli asserted that it had been an open wound ever since the peace with Austria. Every one felt that Italy had not received the amount of territory which ought properly to have come to her at the close of the last war with Austria, the only difference was that some people were prepared to let the matter rest to solve itself in the course of time, and by pacific means, while others were in favour of keeping it alive by agitation, &c. The proceedings of the latter party, he said, were of no practical importance as long as things remained in their normal condition; but the moment there was a question of an accession of territory by Austria, their members, of course, as well as their activity, increased, and he must fairly own he did not see how the Government could remain passive or indifferent.

I gathered from Count Tornielli, indeed, that it was in connection with this question, more than with any other, that the Government had thought it right to commence certain preparations—the purchase of horses for the army, &c., which have been mentioned in my previous correspondence.

On the whole, I am bound to say that I found Count Tornielli's language far less re-assuring to-day than I have done on other occasions, though he told me on leaving that I might be sure that nothing would be done rashly or in haste.

My Austro-Hungarian colleague, whom I saw before my interview with the Prime Minister and Count Tornielli, informed me that M. Depretis had assured him in the most positive manner, about a fortnight or three weeks ago, that, so long as he remained President of the Council, the Cabinet of Vienna might feel perfectly certain that nothing would ever be done by Italy which could possibly disturb the good relations between the two States. It is to be hoped that his Excellency will keep his word.

My opinion is that his Excellency represents in an exaggerated form the agitation which may be expected in the country on this question, and that, if it becomes inconvenient, it will be because the Government have either not the will or the power to curb their turbulent followers. I know for a fact that anything tending to compromise the good understanding with Austria would be greatly deprecated by the leaders of the moderate Liberal and Conservative party, but at the present moment this party is in a hopeless minority in Parliament.

The King, I believe, would be sorry to quarrel with Austria; but, unfortunately, what is always uppermost in His Majesty's mind is military glory, and the idea that when great events are passing in the world, Italy must not allow herself to be forgotten, that she ought to "jouer un rôle;" and this is always an element for consideration in moments like the present.

I may add that my German colleague informs me that he has spoken to M. Depretis

and Count Tornielli on this question in precisely the same sense as I have above reported having done myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 69.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 295. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Siena, July 31, 1877.*

IN the course of my interview with M. Depretis yesterday, his Excellency alluded to the report of the possible expedition of British troops to Gallipoli, and in reply to his inquiries I expressed myself to the same effect as I had done to M. Melegari, as reported in my despatch No. 291, Confidential, of yesterday's date.

His Excellency repeated, but perhaps even more emphatically, what he said to me in our last interview, as reported in my Confidential despatch No. 265 of the 30th ultimo, as to its appearing to him impossible that Europe should allow Russia to take possession of Constantinople and the Dardanelles, and that he considered the interests of Italy and England as identical in this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 70.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)

(No. 296. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Siena, August 1, 1877.*

IN the course of the conversation I had with Count Tornielli the day before yesterday, he expressed the opinion that it would be very desirable that the neutral Powers should come to some sort of agreement amongst themselves as to the arrangements which they would accept for the Ottoman Empire before the moment for discussing the conditions of peace with Russia actually arrived, and he hoped Her Majesty's Government might see fit to take the initiative in opening communications with the neutral Powers on this subject. He thought that, by previous concert, these Powers would have a much better chance of securing the adoption of their views than if each arrived at the Conference or Congress without any previous understanding amongst themselves. The Italian Government, he felt sure, would consider favourably any proposals which might be put forward by Her Majesty's Government. There was only one point which was of vital importance to Italy, and that was that Austria should not take possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Let Austria annex Turkish Croatia or any other provinces, and let there be any other arrangement as respects Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Italian Government would be quite agreeable. He thought that some increase of territory might advantageously be given to Greece.

In regard to the navigation of the Straits, he considered the interests of England and Italy to be the same. He feared, however, it would be impossible now to resist the pretension of Russia to throw them open.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 71.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 4.)*

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 3, 1877.*

WITH reference to telegram of July 31st from Belgrade, I am assured that the object of the Greek Consul-General was to ascertain what Prince Milan and the

* Repeated to Belgrade.

Servian Government were doing, and that no negotiations are going on between Servia and Greece. (Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 72.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 327.) *Constantinople, August* 3, 1877, 2 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that in anticipation of attack from Greece Turkish Government has authorized Albanian Beys to organize irregulars to defend frontier. This measure, although objectionable, is considered indispensable, as the Porte has no regular troops to spare.

Porte has received accounts of a serious Bulgarian rising in the district of Philippopoli, near Tchirpan. Turkish troops have advanced from Philippopoli to Karlowa, which immediately surrendered, the Russians having withdrawn from the neighbourhood.

No. 73.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 4.)

(No. 329.) *Constantinople, August* 4, 1877, 12·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

SIR C. DICKSON telegraphs that he visited the Gallipoli lines yesterday in company with Admiral Hornby. Works are progressing very favourably. 5,000 men at present employed, which number will be soon increased to 10,000. Magazines and transport of guns will be the great difficulty. Guns expected to arrive in ten days.

No. 74.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 4.)

St. Petersburgh, August 4, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

THE Imperial Guard here, with the exception of four cuirassier regiments, are under orders to proceed to Danube, as also 21th division now here and the 26th division from Gradno and 96 pieces of artillery; whole consisting of 77 battalions of infantry, 8 regiments of cavalry, and 204 guns. Artillery and light cavalry will leave in a week, infantry in about three weeks. This measure, together with absence of news from the seat of war, causes some anxiety.

To Caucasus are ordered 1st division grenadiers in Moscow, 3rd army division infantry now at Kieff, two brigades of horse artillery comprising 96 guns.

No. 75.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 4, 1·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August* 4, 1877, 11·45 P.M.
(Confidential.)

COLONEL BRACKENBURY informs me that the Russians have but 8,000 men, principally cavalry, south of the Balkans; the rest have been withdrawn by order of the Grand Duke.

The passes, of course, remain in the hands of the Russians.

Siege of Rustchuk not yet begun, and the position not even entirely invested.

No. 76.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 25. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 4, 1877.

YOUR despatch No. 89 of the 16th ultimo, giving a report of your audience with the Princess of Montenegro, has been received, and I have to state to you that your proceedings are approved.

I am, &c
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 77.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 26. Political.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 4, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 87 and 88 of the 13th and 16th of July, reporting the result of your interviews with the Prince of Montenegro, and the language which you held to His Highness and other prominent persons at Orahuka and Cettigné, and I have to convey to you my entire approval of your proceedings, as reported in these despatches.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 78.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 5.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Août*, 1877.

UN télégramme de Suleiman Pâcha signale ainsi qu'il suit la conduite de l'armée Russe durant les onze jours qu'elle a occupé la ville d'Eski-Zaghra :—

Le premier soin des Russes à leur entrée dans la ville a été de désarmer la population Musulmane. Ils employaient les Moukdars des quartiers qui, trompés par les Russes sur le véritable objet de leur mission, étaient chargés d'aller chercher les Musulmans jusque dans leurs maisons; mais ces derniers, aussitôt sortis de chez eux, étaient massacrés. Onze cents Musulmans ont été ainsi mis à mort. Toutes les femmes de ce district ont subi les derniers outrages. Un télégramme du Caïmacam de Lofteha rapporte que lors de l'entrée des Russes dans cette ville quinze femmes et enfants fuyant devant l'invasion ont été tués par le feu de l'artillerie ennemie. D'autres de ces malheureuses ont dû, pour échapper à l'outrage ou à la mort, abandonner leurs biens et même leurs enfants. Toutes les maisons des Musulmans de Lofteha ont été pillées par les Cozaks et les Bulgares. Enfin, après la reprise de cette ville par l'armée Impériale, les Russes ont porté la dévastation et le carnage dans les localités environnantes. Plusieurs Ulémas ont été mis à mort, les uns fusillés et les autres massacrés à coups de sabre.

No. 79.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 4, 1877, 11 P.M.

I HAVE just received answer from Porte to my representations about blockade. It states in substance that the fact that vessels have been engaged in coasting trade within the line of blockade does not affect its efficiency, the Declaration of Paris only requiring that there should be sufficient force to prevent access to the enemy's territory. It is admitted that one or two passes have been given to ships under Greek flag, and that the proceeding was irregular; but it is maintained that the fact of these vessels requiring passes proves that the blockade was effective.

Measures have been taken to prevent the repetition of this irregularity, and assurances are given that it was never the intention of Porte to show a preference to the flag of any particular nation.

Minister for Foreign Affairs hopes that these explanations will be considered satisfactory, and that Her Majesty's Government will admit that the blockade is effective.

No. 80.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 5.)

(No. 331.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 5, 1877, 1·30 P.M.

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs to-day from Adrianople that the Pasha there has just received news from unofficial but reliable source that Kyzanlik is occupied by Turkish troops, and that Suleiman Pasha has repulsed Russian army, and taken possession of Hain-Boghaz.

No. 81.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 5, 6 P.M.)

(No. 332.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 5, 1877, 3·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th ultimo, Porte informs me that the expenses incurred for return of Ottoman subjects mentioned in my despatch No. 698 will be paid out of the extraordinary expenses of the Province of Trebizond.

No. 82.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 6.)

(No. 423.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August* 1, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship, in translation from the Russian by Mr. Michell, a letter addressed by the special correspondent of the "Golos" to that journal, dated Tirnovo $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ 18th/30th July, 1877, giving an account of the new organization of Bulgaria by Prince Tcherkasski.

Under the changes introduced by this organization, it would appear that Bulgaria is destined to become a Russian province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Extract from the "Golos" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ 20/1, 1876.

(Translation.)

THE special correspondent of the "Golos," in a letter addressed to that journal from Tirnovo on the $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ 18th/30th July, 1877, gives the following particulars as regards the progress of the organization of Bulgaria by Prince Tcherkasski and his staff of administrators:—

"The civil administration in Bulgaria is being gradually introduced under the supervision of Prince Tcherkasski, whose administrative ablities are so well known.

"Only one 'Nakaz,' or Instruction, has so far been issued in those localities in which the civil administration has already been introduced. From this document, however, the Bulgarians have become convinced that the hour of their emancipation from Turkish thraldom has arrived. I send you herewith seven points of this 'Nakaz,' and you will be able to understand the enthusiasm with which it has been received by the Bulgarians:—

"1. In view of the hitherto existing exemption of the natives of the country from military service, the 'betel' tax levied by the Turkish Government in lieu of military service is hereby abolished, and all the inhabitants of the country, without distinction of creed, are henceforward for ever freed from payment of such tax.

"2. From the ensuing year of 1878 the 'desiatina' ('ashur,') or acreage tax on

the productiveness of land, is hereby finally abrogated. In lieu of this tax a land tax will be levied from the year 1878 on a regular basis.

"3. In view, nevertheless, of the exclusive and pressing requirements arising from the war, the 'desiatina' ('ashur') tax will be levied during the present year of 1877: (*a.*) In the shape of money in those localities where corn is not wanted for the requirements of troops. (*b.*) In 'kurd' in those localities where the productions of the soil will be found necessary for the subsistence of the army.

"4. All tax farmers who may have obtained from the Turkish Government the right of levying the 'desiatina' tax for 1877 are hereby interdicted from imposing such tax under pain of personal and material responsibility. For the payments already made by them to the Turkish Exchequer for the year 1877 they will refer to the Turkish Government.

"5. All persons, under pain of personal and material responsibility, are prohibited from purchasing or otherwise obtaining from tax farmers and from removing from villages and hamlets those productions of the soil that are due or have already been made over by the local inhabitants to such tax farmers wherever such productions may have been stored. All such stores are to be surrendered to the Russian authorities on their appearance.

"6. Turkish paper money (kaimé) will not be received in payment of taxes due from the inhabitants.

"7. The taxes shall be paid by the population in metallic currency or in Russian notes of the State Bank. The rate of exchange of metallic currency for Russian bank notes shall be determined by the Commander-in-chief.

"It is intended to divide the whole of Bulgaria into Sandjaks or Governorships, which will be subdivided into circuits (kazy). The Governors will be partly Russian subjects and partly natives known to the Government. The chiefs of circuits will be mostly Russian officers, and these will be chiefly selected from the guards.

"It is to be hoped that, so constituted, the administration of Bulgaria will advance satisfactorily, particularly under the aptitude which Prince Tcheckasski has shown under similar circumstances in Poland. The following are the newly-appointed Governors:—

"Sistova, Mr. Geroff, former Russian Consul at Philippopoli.

"Tulcha (Sandjak), Mr. Belatcerkoriotz, a Bulgarian.

"Tirnovo, Major-General Domontoviteh.

"Other governorships have not as yet been formed, but with the subjugation and occupation of Bulgarian territory by the Russian troops, the civil administration will be gradually introduced."

No. 83.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, August* 6.)

(No. 74.)
Sir, *Buda-Pest, August* 1, 1877.

AN agitation by meetings, ostensibly in condemnation of the alleged and ascertained Russian atrocities, but really in favour of immediate action against Russia, began on the 26th ultimo by a meeting of some 8,000 persons here, which has been followed by meetings in many towns and districts, where resolutions similar to those passed here have been enthusiastically carried, and great hostility to Russia has been shown.

Although these meetings may have little practical influence upon the policy of the Empire, they are further indications of the strong opinions held by the classes of this kingdom who have political power. In the country, as in the capital, these meetings are attended by persons of political note, who enlarge on the well-known views held in Hungary as to her existence being at stake, and the necessity of curbing Russia.

In Buda-Pest, General Klopka made a powerful speech, pointing out that Turkey was fighting for existence as a nation, and could have been a powerful ally of this Empire, for she is by no means the weak State which she is usually pictured. And he concluded by stating that the alternative for Austria-Hungary lay between a Russian or an English alliance, in which Hungary's choice would be obvious.

The resolutions passed brand the Russian cruelties which threaten the Mussulman population with extinction, declare that the extension of Russian power is not

compatible with the interests of Hungary and Austria, and petition Government to prevent the one and to act against the other with all the force of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 84.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 303. Confidential.)
Berlin, August 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE received, together with your Lordship's despatch No. 274, Confidential, of the 1st instant, a copy of Colonel Mansfield's telegram marked Secret of the 31st of July, stating that Prince Bismarck had proposed to Russia to act contrary to her agreement with Austria respecting the present war.

It does not appear to me at all likely that Prince Bismarck can have attempted to disturb the understanding established between the three northern Powers to which he attaches so much importance, and more especially in regard to the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 85.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 307.)
Berlin, August 4, 1877.

My Lord,

INCORRECT rumours being prevalent as to the incorporation on a large scale of German officers on half-pay into the Russian army, it has been thought necessary to cause an explanation, copy of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, to be inserted in the "North German Gazette."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 85.

Extract from the "Gazette Générale de l'Allemagne du Nord."

D'ASSEZ nombreuses nouvelles non fondées et erronées sont répandues au sujet de l'entrée d'officiers Prussiens, pensionnés ou mis en disponibilité, dans l'armée Russe. Il est à faire remarquer vis-à-vis de telles énonciations, qu'au début de la guerre le Gouvernement Russe n'avait pas admis d'officiers étrangers dans son armée. Ce n'est que tout récemment que quelques demandes isolées d'entrée au service Russe de la part d'officiers Prussiens ont trouvé un accueil plus favorable. Mais il a été statué isolément sur chacune de ces demandes, et non en suite d'une décision générale. Il ne saurait être question d'une permission générale pour l'entrée d'officiers Prussiens dans l'armée Russe, puisqu'une telle mesure choquerait tous les us et coutumes militaires.

No. 86.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 309. Confidential.)
Berlin, August 4, 1877.

My Lord,

THE message sent on the 24th ultimo from the Sultan through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to your Lordship, "entreating of the Queen and Her Majesty's Government to use their influence with the Emperor Alexander to put an end to the shocking cruelties committed by his troops upon the inoffensive Mussulman population of the country which he has invaded," was equally sent on the same day to the German Emperor at Gastein.

As far as I have been able to ascertain, the Emperor expressed his deep regret at the state of things, but declined, as a neutral, to convey the message to the Czar.

The atrocities committed are believed here to be acts of revenge on the part of the Bulgarians, because the Russian soldiers have the reputation of being well disciplined and not naturally inclined to be cruel or blood-thirsty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 87.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 644.)
Vienna, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

AT the Council held to-day under the presidency of the Emperor, a resolution was passed unanimously approving Count Andrassy's neutral policy, and after expressing entire confidence in his Excellency, authorizing him, whenever he may think it necessary, to move the Emperor to give the necessary orders to the Minister of War for the mobilization of one corps d'armée and one division, or, in other words, of four divisions.

My informant, who is a civilian, stated that the strength of a corps d'armée on a peace footing is 25,000, and that when mobilized it would amount to 60,000.

I understand that arrangements were also made that the Minister of Finance should provide the necessary funds for carrying out the measure when it is adopted, but that nothing would be done unless the Turkish armies are entirely defeated. I am also told that the Servian frontier would be the destination of the mobilized force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 88.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 646.)
Vienna, August 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I LEARNT yesterday evening, after forwarding my telegram respecting a partial mobilization of the Austrian army, that the army corps only which it is proposed to mobilize is intended to be employed on the Servian frontier, and that the division will be sent as a reinforcement to the troops in Dalmatia, from which it may be presumed that Austria will oppose Montenegro obtaining any accession of territory in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 89.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 647.)
Vienna, August 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Vienna, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

THE Conference of Monday the 30th ultimo, in which the military element of this Empire was represented by the Archduke Albert and the Council of Statesmen, of Tuesday the 31st, have hardly altered the political situation.

The crisis, if it may be so termed, arose from the projected departure of His

Majesty from Vienna to meet the Emperor of Germany, and from important commercial questions, rather than from the march of foreign affairs.

On Monday the Hungarian Minister, Tisza, made a concession to the military party in declaring Hungary content to allow a partial mobilization of force, provided an assurance were obtained against action hostile to Turkey. He stated distinctly that Hungary would be no party to a Russian alliance, and he even designated the occupation of Bosnia as a dangerous measure, in that the Turks and Bosnians would be forced to offer an armed resistance to Austria. The impression at the close of the Conference was that two corps would be placed on a war footing, yet in truth no one could explain why. The conditions imposed by the Hungarians robbed the concession of all charm in the eyes of the Archduke and the party he represented, for these aim only at joint action with Russia; it is, therefore, no matter of wonder that the Council presided over by the Emperor on Tuesday limited the force to be mobilized to four divisions (30,000 men), and delegated all authority in the matter to Count Andrassy. The Minister of Foreign Affairs could wish for no more flattering vote of confidence; but it by no means follows that he will take immediate advantage of the power granted.

Austrian interests are said to be threatened by Servia on the one hand, and on the other by a still more turbulent Slav State, Montenegro.

If Servia shows serious intent of a further appeal to arms, Austria will not with decision; and if Montenegro takes Nichsich and invades Herzegovina, Austrian troops will doubtless bar the road to Mostar. It may be assumed then that the 20th Division, under Prince Lassary, on the Save, and the 18th Division in Dalmatia (headquarters at Ragusa), will first be placed on a war footing, and as a reserve to the latter a division at Trieste, and to the former probably a division at Gratz. This year's splendid harvest being still for the most part unhoused, and the fact that the two puny Slav States know Austria's intentions, render it unavoidable, in my humble opinion, to hurry matters. On the other hand, the War Office is anxious to put its machinery in action for the first time, and if one listens to military opinion a mobilization will immediately take place.

As your Excellency is aware, Count Andrassy expresses ever an intention of avoiding a premature exhibition of force, and of repeating the mistake of 1854, when over 50,000 soldiers died (from sickness), and 260,000,000 gulden were spent without a shot being fired.

It is said that the military chest contains securities representing from 70,000,000 to 80,000,000 gulden. The mobilisation of four divisions would cost from 25,000,000 to 30,000,000 gulden.

This moment is not inopportune to recapitulate the fighting strength of this Empire.

Reckoning each regiment at 3 active and 2 reserve battalions, and with the Landwehr of Austria and the Honveds of Hungary, there are 42 divisions, which, divided by 3, give 14 corps d'armée, and there are 13 regiments of artillery, plus the depôt and cavalry. During the present year the machinery has been prepared for raising a 6th battalion per regiment, which, with the last reserves of the country, can form 12 additional divisions; the latter are doubtless more imaginary than real, but I shall expect to find mention of them in the Army Estimates when produced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 90.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 650. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, August 3, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador here believes that if Austria should eventually think it necessary to occupy Bosnia, she will not do so without coming to a previous understanding with the Porte, and I am told that he has been encouraged to expect this by General Klapka, who professes to have received assurances in that sense from Count Andrassy.

I do not, however, place much confidence in the utterance of General Klapka, who has also, I believe, informed his Turkish friends that Count Andrassy excuses

himself for not having taken a more active part in favour of Turkey because he could not look to England for support, as Her Majesty's Government have been constantly changing their views on the Eastern question.

At a recent interview with Baron Orczy, I therefore asked his Excellency whether it was intended, in the event of the occupation of Bosnia, to endeavour, before adopting that measure, to obtain the Porte's assent to it, but he said he could express no opinion on an eventuality in which so much would depend on the circumstances which would have to be taken into consideration at the time when it might occur.

I had previously mentioned to him that the last reports received in London from Athens allude to the probability of a Greek force entering Epirus and Thessaly, if Austria occupied Bosnia; and what struck me most in his answer to my observations on both subjects was that he never spoke of the entrance of Austrian troops into Bosnia as unlikely to happen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 91.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 651. Confidential.)
Vienna, August 3, 1877.

My Lord,

MIDHAT PASHA has informed me that he has written to the new Sheik-ul-Islam, expressing satisfaction at the exhortation which he has caused to be published in the Mosques at Constantinople, enjoining Mussulmans not to be induced by any amount of provocation to use violence to Christians. His Highness stated to him that the most dangerous arm which her enemies can use against Turkey is to provoke the Mussulmans to acts of violence or atrocity against Christian subjects of the Sultan; and that he ought not, therefore, to think he has done enough by exhorting the Turks in Constantinople to avoid committing excesses, but he should also send agents throughout the country to inculcate the necessity of all Mussulmans doing likewise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 92.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(No. 333.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 5, 1877, 10·30 P.M.*

BLUNT telegraphs that 3,500 Turkish Bulgarians and Jewish fugitives have arrived at Adrianople from Eski-Zaghra, amongst them some American missionaries, who with their families had been saved from Circassians by their Turkish neighbours. They state that immediately Russians occupied the town all the arms surrendered by the Turks were distributed to Bulgarians promiscuously; that undoubtedly atrocities were committed by Bulgarians, with the knowledge of the Russians, and that Turks have retaliated with severity.

No. 93.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 5, 1877, 3·40 P.M.*

AN Imperial Ukase, dated Biela, July 22, calls out first ban of militia for the European provinces of Russia and the Caucasus, with exception of Bessarabia, amounting to 185,407 men.

No fresh intelligence from seat of war.

No. 94.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 5, 1877, 6 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

AN arrangement will be concluded to-morrow by banking houses here for placing funds at the disposal of the Government, for the eventual mobilization authorized at the Council of the 31st ultimo. It is hoped, however, on the Exchange, that the recent Turkish victories may render it unnecessary for Austria to take any military measures.

No. 95.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 6.)

Galatz, August 6, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

VICE-CONSUL, Kustendji, asks that following telegram may be forwarded:—

"Authorities have notified officially that sea approaches to Kustendji are guarded by torpedoes. Please advise Embassy."

No. 96.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 60. Political.) *Aleih, July 21, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 58 of the 8th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a Report which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitalé, informing me of the satisfaction of the inhabitants of Lattakia at the retention of Mahmoud Aga Hazudar in his post of member of the Medjliss of that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

Lattaquié, le 9 Juillet, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI bien reçu la dépêche que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser, en date du 1er de ce mois, pour m'informer que sur votre recommandation le Gouvernement-Général du Vilayet de Syrie a décidé de retenir Mahmoud Agha Hazudar dans son poste actuel en cette ville dans l'intérêt du maintien de la tranquillité et de ne plus l'appeler à commander un bataillon de cavalerie volontaire dans l'armée.

Très-flatté de ce fait, par lequel vous donnez une nouvelle preuve de l'intérêt que notre Gouvernement porte aux Chrétiens de ce pays et à leur bien-être, je m'empresse de porter à votre haute connaissance, M. le Consul-Général, que toute la population Chrétienne et les Musulmans qui s'intéressent au maintien du bon ordre en cette ville ont appris cette nouvelle avec joie, et tous vous en professent une vive reconnaissance.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALÉ.

No. 97.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 62. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleih, July 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that Omer Fevzi Pasha, the recently appointed Governor-General of Syria, arrived at Beyrout on the 18th instant, by a specially-chartered Austrian steamer, which is said to have discharged a large quantity of arms for the Ottoman Government.

His Excellency the Governor-General will leave to-morrow for Damascus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 98.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 63. Political.)

My Lord, *Aleih, July 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 59 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a despatch No. 83, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the disorders in the neighbourhood of Lattakia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 98.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, July 22, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th instant, reporting on the disorders in the neighbourhood of Lattakia, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, copies of reports which I have received from Messrs. Blanche and Vitalé, from which you will perceive that the state of affairs shows little signs of improvement.

I have, however, received assurances from the Governor of Tripoli to the effect that his Excellency has great hopes that the measures he has recently taken in seizing hostages from the insurgent population will have some effect in reducing them to order, though I do not altogether share his sanguine expectations.

The suggestion of Mr. Vitalé to raise a body of irregular horsemen at Lattakia for the protection of the villages of the plain is, perhaps, worthy of consideration, and I intend to bring it to the notice of the authorities. The only objection that I can perceive to this plan is that the horsemen, unless under proper control, might pillage on their own account.

Whatever measures it may be considered expedient to adopt, it is to be hoped that his Excellency Omer Fevzi Pasha will display more vigour and resolution in putting an end to these troubles than his predecessor, Zia Pasha, and that his efforts may be crowned with success.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 98.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le 16 Juillet, 1877.*

LE Moutsarrif Chakir Bey est revenu avant hier, 14 courant, de Safita, où il est allé, en expédition contre les Ansairiés, après son retour de Lattaquié. Il a passé une quinzaine de jours sur les confins du district dit Oundi-el-Aïoun, qui paraît être le

principal repaire des bandits. A son approche les habitants se sont enfuit dans les bois, détruisant leurs maisons avant de les abandonner. Ils ne font pas en cela, comme on pourrait le supposer, acte de désespérés; au contraire, ils font acte de conservation, car ils se bornent à effondrer leurs terrasses; ils en mouillent autant qu'ils peuvent les terres et les solives, ils mettent ainsi les maisons à l'abri de l'incendie. A leur retour, ils trouvent les bois intactes; c'est l'essentiel, la reconstruction des terrasses n'est plus qu'une insignifiante opération.

Chakor Bey n'avait pour toute force armée qu'environ 250 hommes, dont la moitié au moins est composé de Rédifs Ansairiés récemment venus de Lattaquié. Il ne songea même pas à s'engager avec une force si peu sûre dans les bois de Ouadi-el-Aïoun, où l'on savait que les Ansairiés rebelles étaient embusqués et disposés à user de leurs armes. Le Moutsarrif de Hama avait l'ordre de venir rejoindre son collègue de Tripoli avec les forces dont il disposait, et qui étaient aussi d'environ 250 hommes. Il amenait avec lui sous Aman Haouache Beik, qui est employé de l'autorité dans la Province de Hama, et que l'opinion publique accuse, non sans raison, d'être le véritable fauteur de l'agitation actuelle. Je ne sais pas ce qui s'est passé entre les deux Moutsarrifs. Je soupçonne que leur confiance réciproque n'a pas été parfaite. Quoiqu'il en soit, ils ne sont pas entrés dans Ouadi-el-Aïoun, et ils ne pouvaient pas y entrer. Les notables de ce district, ou plus probablement, des localités environnantes, se sont rendus à l'autorité. Chakir Bey a ramené avec lui, comme ôtages, les Mokhtars des villages, au nombre d'une quinzaine. Le Moutsarrif de Hama a emmené, m'assure-t-on, les principaux Chefs de familles, appelés Mokaddems, ou leurs enfants, entr'autre, un fils de Haouache. Je ne puis pas me rendre compte encore de la valeur de cette composition pacifique. Cela dépend de la qualité et de l'influence des ôtages amenés. Chakir Bey, que je viens de voir, a toute confiance que la tranquillité va renaître à Sulita. C'est possible. Mais il est difficile d'y compter; c'est en tout cas le seul résultat qu'on puisse souhaiter en ce moment. Il ne faut pas songer à poursuivre et châtier les brigands en armes qui depuis deux mois pillent et assassinent dans ces districts. Chakir Bey a été lui-même frappé de l'extraordinaire difficulté des lieux qui servent de repaire aux rebelles. Il y faut une expédition en règle, avec un véritable corps d'armée. Aussi jusqu'à la paix, il faut attendre à voir ce pays fréquemment troublé, si non continuellement, d'autant plus que la misère y est effrayable.

C'est une malheureuse population ruinée par l'usure, par les exactions, par tous les excès d'une administration sans scrupule et sans contrôle. Il n'y a peut-être pas, dans toute la Turquie, une autre population tombée aussi bas dans la dégradation morale. L'ancien Moutsarif, Ibrahim Pacha, m'assurait que, d'après ses relevés, cette montagne Ansariée avait, dans ces dernières années, perdu de 30,000 à 40,000 âmes. Des villages entiers étaient abandonnés par leurs habitants, qui s'en allaient ailleurs chercher de meilleures conditions d'existence. Il est à craindre que cette dépopulation ne tende à grandir plutôt qu'à diminuer. Le sol, cependant, est riche, excellent, plein de ressources, mais les institutions sont détestables; il faut en accuser aussi bien leur état religieux que les mœurs des gouvernants.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 98.

Vice-Consul Vitalé to Consul-General Eldridge.

Lattaquié, le 16 *Juillet*, 1877.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le mouvement anarchique des Ansaryehs prend de jour en jour des proportions plus graves, de sorte que la sécurité a complètement disparu hors de cette ville et partout ailleurs dans le pays des deux Caïmacamliks de Lattaquié et de Gébélé. Il ne se passe pas deux ou trois jours consécutifs sans qu'il y ait un nouveau fait de brigandage, ce qui fait qu'il serait vraiment trop long de vous soumettre en détail tout ce qui est arrivé depuis quelque temps et surtout depuis le départ du bataillon de troupes régulières dont il y avait cinq compagnies ici et à Gébélé.

Il suffit de vous dire, M. le Consul-Général, que déjà trois ou quatre villages de la plaine de Lattaquié et non loin plus d'une et deux heures de cette ville ont été saccagés par les montagnards "Kubbyés" (Caïmacamlik de Gébélé) que plusieurs personnes ont été dévalisées et qu'à l'heure qu'il est le bruit court que les montagnards des deux Caïmacamliks ont formé entr'eux une ligne pour attaquer le Canton de Sahion, qui est

habité par des Musulmans et par des Chrétiens. Les premiers font la majorité des habitants du dit canton.

Heureusement dans la ville même de Lattaquié, la tranquillité règne toujours et les habitants n'ont à se plaindre sous ce rapport; mais ils sont tous impatients de voir cet état de choses changer et le bon ordre rétabli dans le pays.

Pour arriver à ce-ci et tant que le Gouvernement du vilayet n'est pas à même d'envoyer ici des troupes régulières pour le moment, je pense qu'il ferait bien d'autoriser le Caïmacam de cette ville de former un escadron de 200, ou au moins 100 cavaliers indigènes chargés de la protection des villages de la plaine et du rétablissement de la sécurité des routes. Cette mesure, qui est, du reste, l'objet du vœu général des habitants de cette ville, ne pourrait que produire un bon effet dans le pays et arrêter le brigandage, sinon rétablir l'ordre parmi les montagnards et par conséquent je prends la respectueuse liberté de vous prier, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir la recommander à l'attention de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, si vous le jugerez à propos.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) N. VITALÉ.

No. 99.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 64. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleih, July* 23, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the outrage on a Christian church in the Canton of Akkar, in the district of Tripoli.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Aleih, July* 23, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting an outrage committed on a Christian church in the Canton of Akkar, in the Mutsarriflik of Tripoli, by refractory Redifs. As the substance of the petition addressed by the inhabitants to Mr. Blanche is embodied in that gentleman's despatch, I do not consider it necessary to trouble your Excellency with a translation. I will impress upon the Mutessarif of Tripoli the necessity of making an inquiry into this outrage and of punishing the authors of it, if the force at his disposal will enable him to do so, and I trust his Excellency will meet with more support in his efforts to preserve order from Omer Fevzi Pasha, the new Governor-General, than he appears to have received from Zia Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le* 19 *Juillet*, 1877.

LES habitants du village Maronite de Munjez, à Akkar, sont venus ce matin me faire connaître que leur église a été entièrement dépouillée et pillée par des bandits.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-inclus la requête qu'ils m'ont adressée à ce sujet. Ils assurent que ces bandits ne sont pas autre chose que des Rédifs réfracteurs, qui cherchent dans le brigandage les ressources nécessaires pour payer les complaisances incontestables des agents de l'autorité cantonale.

Il est certain que dans la partie d'Akkar qui s'appelle le Draib, la condition des

Chrétiens est déplorable. Le Mudir, Ahmed A. Abboud, s'est signalé de tout temps par sa brutalité contre tout ce qui est Chrétien; et il y a toute certitude qu'il ne les protège pas contre le brigandage actuel. Le Caïmacam du district est un étranger sans valeur, qui paraît peu se soucier du bon ordre public.

Dans la partie appelée El-Kaïté la tranquillité est parfaite chez les Chrétiens, parce que là se trouve un homme de mérite et de bonne volonté, Mohammed-beik-el-Mohammed, qui conserve toute son influence au maintien de l'ordre. Chakir Bey l'a maintes fois proposé pour un Caïmacam de sa province; et cet homme est de ceux que le Gouvernement a tout avantage à employer dans les circonstances présentes. Mais Zia Pacha, dans ses relations avec Tripoli, semble s'être beaucoup plus inspiré de son inimitié personnelle contre notre Moutsarrif, que des exigences du service. Maintenant qu'un autre Valy est nommé, je pense que Chakir Bey va tenter de nouveau d'employer Mohammed-beik-el-Mohammed; et il serait à souhaiter qu'on en fît un Caïmacam d'Akkar.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

No. 100.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 334.) *Therapia, August 6, 1877, 9·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIANS have evacuated Kazanlik and retired upon the Shipka Pass. Raouf Pasha succeeds Ahmed Eyoub as second in command on the Danube.

No. 101.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(No. 336.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877, 3 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis:—

"From women arriving here from Eski-Zaghra I gather that the whole of Christian quarter destroyed, and male Bulgarian population slaughtered almost to a man; but few women and children killed and none violated. Same thing is stated to have occurred at Kyzanlik, whence Russians are reported to have been driven out."

No. 102.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

Vienna, August 6, 1877, 3·55 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

DESPOTOVIC, with about 2,000 insurgents, having been attacked yesterday by a Turkish force, retreated to a strip of territory on the bank of the Unna, which the Turkish Commanders have hitherto believed to be within the Austrian frontier. Having been followed there and driven across the river, they were, with their Chief, disarmed and interned.

It appears that latter measure was adopted in consequence of telegraphic instructions from Count Andrassy.

No. 103.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1877, 4·15 P.M.*
(Confidential.)

I HAVE again spoken to M. Orczy of the intention of the Greeks to occupy Epirus and Thessaly, if Bosnia is occupied by Austria, and I added that it is said Greeks believe latter eventuality to be immediate (imminent?).

His Excellency observed, in reply, that in his opinion the report of Greek warlike

preparations was greatly exaggerated; but he avoided any reference to occupation of Bosnia by Austria.

No. 104.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, August 6, 1877, 4·30 P.M.*

M. ORCZY told me to-day, in answer to an inquiry on my part, that though Servian Agent has assured him positively that the new levies do not exceed 3,000 men for the defence of the frontier, information received from other sources tends to show that the Government will resume hostilities on slightest encouragement from Russia, and that Austria would not interfere to prevent Servia taking part in the war.

If this statement, therefore, is correct, it must be for service attached to Bosnia and the Herzegovina that any Austrian force which may be mobilized is intended.

No. 105.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 6, 1877, 4·45 P.M.*

IF the language held to me to-day by M. Orczy represents the opinion of the Government, they do not consider that the recent Turkish victories will have any important influence on the campaign, and that the Russian army has still time to cross the Balkans before the autumn.

No. 106.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 7, 1877.*

WITH reference to my telegrams of yesterday respecting the alleged intention of the Greeks to enter into the Turkish provinces on their frontier in the event of this Government sending troops into Bosnia, Baron Calice said to me to-day that if the former depended on the latter contingency there was little probability of its ever occurring.

No. 107.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, August 7, 1877.*

COUNT ANDRASSY, whom I have seen to-night, thinks that as the Greeks have not now to fear creation of a great Bulgaria, they will not move.

He is also of opinion that there is little chance of the war being ended before the winter.

No. 108.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 7, 1877.*

SESSION of the Servian Assembly closed. The Prince has returned to Belgrade; his Military Agent at Russian head-quarters again here. Military preparations continue; five brigades of militia to be mobilized and start on Sunday, together with embodied battalions of trained recruits, to make up a total of between 30,000 and 40,000 men to the frontier.

For some unintelligible reason, an opinion accredited here that Germany will dissuade Austria from resenting the conduct of Servia.

No. 109.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 853. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Porte has brought to my notice, on more than one occasion, the reports that it has received from the Turkish authorities in Bosnia as to the preparations supposed to be made by Austria in Dalmatia for the invasion and occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Grand Vizier requested me to telegraph on the subject to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Consul in Bosnia, which I accordingly did. Your Lordship, in reply, transmitted to me, in the first instance, a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, denying that further additions were being made to the Austrian forces on the Turkish frontiers than those mentioned in a report from Major Gosse, already forwarded to your Lordship, and stating that that officer is of opinion that no occupation of Turkish territory will take place without the mobilization of a part of the Austrian army. But subsequently a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul at Ragusa, which your Lordship sent to me on the 23rd instant, fully confirmed the suspicions of the Turkish Government, and to the effect that military preparations of every kind are being made in Dalmatia, munitions of war or provisions are landed by every steamer, and the military stations are being fortified; that the troops have been ordered to be ready for active service, and 800 mules collected between Ragusa and Klek. On the other hand, Mr. Acting Consul Freeman, who had been authorized by the Grand Vizier to telegraph to me in cipher on this subject, informed me on the 22nd instant that he did not believe that any military preparations were being made on the Dalmatian frontier for a proximate occupation of Bosnia. The Turkish military authorities at Bosna-Serai had received instructions to concert measures with the Austrian military authorities in Croatia and Dalmatia for the suppression of the insurrection, and a Turkish staff-major was about to leave for the frontier with this object.

In consequence of these contradictory statements, I thought it as well to endeavour to ascertain from Count Zichy whether the Austro-Hungarian Government was making preparations in Dalmatia for occupying the adjoining Turkish provinces. In answer to my inquiries on the subject, his Excellency gave me the most distinct and positive assurances that up to the present time no such preparations had been made. Many reports on the subject, he said, had been spread and had caused alarm to the Porte; but they arose from the fact that the Austro-Hungarian Government was changing the whole artillery of the Empire, and replacing the old guns by others on a new system. In consequence of this change, a number of cannons, with their ammunition, &c., had been sent to Dalmatia, and this had given rise to the rumours that Austria was about to invade Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Although, Count Zichy added, he would give me the assurance that at the present time no such intention existed on the part of his Government, he would not of course say what might hereafter happen should events occur which might compel Austria to take steps in the defence of her own interests.

I communicated these assurances, with the substance of the telegrams I had received, to the Grand Vizier, but his Highness was not at all satisfied with them. He declared that further information had been received at the Porte which convinces him that the preparations to which he had called my attention were being made. His Highness explained that the mission of a Turkish staff-major, to which Acting Consul Freeman's telegram referred, merely related to certain arrangements which were contemplated with the object of suppressing the insurrection in Bosnia, and of maintaining order on the Croatian border.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 110.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 854. Confidential.)

Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

AN impression prevails at the Porte and amongst the leading Greeks that preparations are being carried on by the Hellenic Government for the immediate invasion of the Provinces of Thessaly and Epirus, and that Hellenic troops will very shortly cross the Turkish frontier. I was questioning on the subject, a day or two ago, a Greek gentleman who is perfectly well acquainted with what is going on in his country. He replied: "We are not yet ready to move, nor shall we be for some months to come. I will tell you when the moment has arrived for us to play our part. The first signal will come from Crete. What we now most desire is that Turkey should be able to resist Russia for some time yet, and that the war may be prolonged into the autumn."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 111.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 855.)

Therapia, July 28, 1877.

My Lord,

MY Austro-Hungarian colleague sent me this afternoon a report from his Vice-Consul at Bourgas, of which I have the honour to inclose a translation. Count Zichy seemed, from this report, to apprehend that the Christian inhabitants of that town were in serious danger, and urged me to send the "Rapid," which was the nearest foreign vessel of war, to the place for their protection. As Captain Drummond was at Varna, and I had already written to request him to visit Bourgas, I telegraphed to him to do so at once, and to report to me the state of affairs there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Report from the Austro-Hungarian Consular Agency at Burgas to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, dated July 26, 1877.

(Translation.)

SINCE about the last twenty days the great immigration from the Dobrudja has filled this neighbourhood and almost the whole district with people of every kind. Besides these there are here and in the neighbourhood about 250 Albanians who have left their occupations, all well-armed vagabonds without a profession and with nothing in view but robbery and pillage. The peaceful population of the place, both Mussulman and Christian, have come to an agreement for mutual defence in case of anything occurring. Considering the critical position of the country, and that the local authorities have at their disposal only twenty or twenty-five zaptichs, all recruited from the Mustahfiz, this Consular Agency, in the interests of public security, addressed a letter on the 21st instant to the local Governor, respectfully requesting him to state whether he possessed sufficient means to guarantee public security, and what measures he had taken to remove the above-mentioned vagabonds. To this letter the Governor returned an evasive and frivolous answer, passing over in silence the part respecting the Albanians. I am informed from a sure source that the notables of the district, Mussulmans and Christians, requested the Governor to remove from here all the vagabonds, but received no reply. In view of the want of public force and of the local Governor's method of procedure, the Christian population suspect that from day to day the sad fate of Mangaglia and Cavarna may befall them. On the 21st instant there arrived here a Turkish corvette, with a crew of about 140 men, and it appears that she has orders to cruize in the neighbourhood of this gulf; this does not satisfy the Christian population, inasmuch as there are, nevertheless, in the gulf a number of piratical vessels from Anatolia; and they look for the fatal moment for this town also. In view of the unhappy situation of this place and the anarchy which reigns

in the administration of government, I think it my duty respectfully to add that the local Governor is a man not only of extremely fanatical character, but also quite unfit for his position under present circumstances.

In the name of humanity, as there is in question the Christian population of this place of about 8,000 souls who are at the mercy of a caprice, this Consular Agency ventures respectfully to turn to the Imperial and Royal Embassy, beseeching it to be graciously pleased to take into consideration the unhappy lot of the population of this place. The only thing to be done, in my humble judgment, would be to station a foreign vessel of war in this port, and this would suffice to meet every eventuality.

No. 112.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 856.)
Therapia, July 29, 1877.

My Lord,

CAPTAIN DRUMMOND, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," informs me that he was surprised to learn on his recent return to Kustendji, from M. Belloteherkoniteh, the Russian Governor of the place, that after his very positive language to the contrary, the Russian authorities did not object to communication being kept up by the "Rapid" with Varna. Captain Drummond will therefore be able to carry out my instructions to remain on the coast, and to visit places where his presence may be required for the protection of life and property.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 113.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 857.)
Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I addressed on the 23rd instant to Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, instructing him to ascertain and report to me some particulars, on trustworthy information, as to a massacre of Christians which is alleged to have taken place at Yeni Zaghra. Your Lordship will perceive by Mr. Dupuis' reply, copy of which is also inclosed, how exceedingly difficult it is to get at the truth in such matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 113.

Mr. Layard to Vice-Consul Dupuis.

Therapia, July 23, 1877.

Sir,

I AM informed that Baron Hirschfeldt, Secretary to the German Embassy, and Captain Gambier, a "Times" Correspondent, state that they saw at Yeni Zaghra a number of dead bodies concealed under straw in a barn, or some other building, alleged to be those of Bulgarians massacred by the Mussulmans of the place or by Bashi-Bazouks. I should be glad if you could ascertain whether such a massacre did take place, and under what circumstances, and the number of the victims. If Captain Fife has been able to carry out his intention of visiting Yeni Zaghra, he may perhaps obtain some trustworthy information on the subject.

It has been stated to me that the Bulgarian inhabitants of Yeni Zaghra, on the reported approach of Russian troops, set fire to the Mussulman quarter of the town, and that the Mahommedans killed some of the Christians in revenge. It would be desirable to ascertain whether such was the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 113.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 27, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd instant, respecting the occurrences at Yeni-Zagra, and to state in reply that there are so many conflicting and contradictory accounts of this affair that it has almost become a question here whether there has been anything at all.

A correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" related to me the circumstance as reported in my despatch of the 19th instant. I should have mentioned in that despatch that the correspondent told me that when in Yeni-Zagra he offered one lira to whoever produced him the dead body of a Bulgarian, but met no success.

On the other hand a correspondent of the "Times" stated the troops at Hainbogaz, meeting with reverses, fell back, and that the Bashi-Bazouks coming down to Yeni-Zagra set it on fire, and began pillaging the place and killing the Christian inhabitants. This gentleman mentioned having seen several bodies, and I think he added that the total number of killed was about 400. He also told me that he offered 10 napoleons to any one who would produce him a single murdered Mussulman.

My dragoman was most positively assured by fugitives from Yeni-Zagra that several persons of his acquaintance in that place had also been massacred; but, to his utter astonishment, the next day he met those acquaintances walking these streets. The Bulgarian vicar to whom I spoke on the subject mentioned sixteen Bulgarians killed, but did not hear of women or children having been massacred.

My Greek colleague related to me that he heard that the Zeibecks, after ordering away from the place the orthodox Bulgarians, killed some schismatic Bulgarians, and mentioned twelve bodies having been buried in one spot, and others in Turkish graveyards, in order to conceal the true number of persons massacred.

Turkish women fugitives here relate that a Bulgarian in Yeni-Zagra threw up a Turkish child in the air and caught it on his knife, and that a second child had its legs flayed.

It is extremely difficult to ascertain the exact truth as to what really did take place in Yeni-Zagra from the different contradictory and exaggerated accounts; but I gather from what I consider fairly trustworthy sources, and from the fact of the Bulgarians refusing to sell to Turks articles of food prior to the occurrence, as well as nailing-up their shops and stores for safety, that they knew beforehand what was about to happen; and encouraged by the presence of Russians at Hainbogaz were evidently the first to bring troubles to the village, and draw upon them the anger of the Turks.

The number of persons who it is alleged lost their lives in Yeni-Zagra cannot be ascertained with certainty, and all that is known is that great numbers fled who are now in Adrianople, and are put down as having been massacred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

No. 114.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 858.)
Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 855 of the 28th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a telegram which I have received from Captain Drummond, from Bourgas. I have requested him by telegraph to ascertain, if possible, where Mr. Brophy is, and to transmit to him my orders to return at once to his post, which he ought not to have quitted without first communicating with me at a critical moment like the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Commander Drummond to Mr. Layard.

Burgas, July 30, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

ARRIVED here last night. Consul absent. No immediate danger. Numbers of Noghai Tartars, Circassians, and Arnauts in the vicinity. Pillaging reported in the adjacent villages. A Turkish corvette here, but no troops. The Mahomedan populations are ready to start, after which danger might be apprehended. The inhabitants patrol the town at night.

No. 115.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 861. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

AS I have reported to your Lordship, the Sultan a short time ago invited the Greek Patriarch and the Bulgarian Exarch to the Palace, and gave them a very kind and gracious reception. It occurred to me that His Majesty would do a wise and politic thing if he were to show a similar favour to the Patriarch of the Armenians, a people who have always been faithful to their Sovereign, and who are under no foreign influence which might render them suspicious or dangerous to the State. I communicated my opinion to His Majesty, and at once received the following reply in writing, dictated by him: "Yes; Mr. Layard is perfectly right in his suggestion, and I shall invite the Armenian Patriarch;" adding that in the suggestion he saw a proof of sincere friendship towards him, and "sent me his thanks and salams."

I mention this incident with pleasure, as it proves how ready the Sultan is to take advice, and how anxious he is to do what is right as regards his subjects, if he is only allowed to obey the dictates of his heart and judgment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 116.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 862. Very Confidential.)

Therapia, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed that Midhat Pasha has telegraphed to a person about the Sultan to tell His Majesty that he is anxious to serve His Majesty in the present critical state of affairs, and that he is ready to accept a post abroad. There is so strong a personal feeling on the part of the Sultan against Midhat Pasha, that I doubt whether His Majesty will be persuaded to employ him. Of late his partizans have been bringing his name before the public, and an attempt is being made to excite popular opinion in his favour, but hitherto without success. It might, however, be different if a national disaster were to cause a general outburst of indignation against those who now govern the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 117.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 865.)

Therapia, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of receiving a telegram from your Lordship on the 25th instant, instructing me to send Mr. Rassam to the district inhabited by the Nestorian Christians to report and to do what he can for their protection. Your Lordship will have already learnt by my despatches that, as soon as Mr. Abbott's reports as to the

threatening attitude of the Koords towards the Nestorians had reached me, I induced the Porte to take immediate measures to prevent an attack upon these Christian tribes. Safvet Pasha at once telegraphed instructions on the subject to the Vali of the Province of Diarbekir; and, as no answer has yet been received from that functionary, Aarifi Pasha has repeated the orders given by his predecessors.

I had determined to send Mr. Rassam, as your Lordship suggests in your telegram, to Diarbekir, and he would have already left for that place; but, in consequence of the war, the weekly communication by steamer between Constantinople and Scandoroon, the best and quickest route to Diarbekir, has been interrupted, and there will be no means of reaching Scanderoon until next week, when Mr. Rassam will proceed on his mission. The roads by Samsoon and Amasia, and by Trebizond and Erzeroum, are, if not closed, in a very dangerous state, owing to the war, and it would not, I think, be prudent for him to go by either of them; besides, he would gain no time by doing so. I have already obtained for him the necessary firman and letters.

I have further instructed Mr. Rassam to obtain a report upon the condition of the Armenians in the Pashalic of Van, who, it is alleged, have suffered greatly from the excesses of the Koords. He can visit Bitlis, Moush, and Van, without difficulty from Diarbekir. The Armenian Patriarch has earnestly requested me to do something for the protection of his unfortunate people in Koordistan. His Eminence has given Mr. Rassam letters for the Armenian Bishops and notables in the province, and I hope that his presence there will check the disorders that now exist.

Mr. Rassam will also make inquiries for me and report on the complaints and condition of the Syrian Jacobite Christians at Mosul, to which your Lordship's despatch No. 282 of the 5th instant refers.

I trust that Mr. Rassam, who is well known to, and has much influence amongst, the various Christian tribes of Koordistan, will be able to do much for their protection and better government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 118.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 866.)

Therapia, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch dated 28th instant from Consul Reade, inclosing a report from Vice-Consul Dalziel of his visit to Shabler, on the western coast of the Black Sea. I have made a Memorandum of Mr. Dalziel's statements as to the excesses committed by Circassians in Christian villages for the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, and I shall call his earnest attention to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 118.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith inclosed the report of Vice-Consul Dalziel of his late visit to Shabler on this coast in Her Majesty's ship "Rapid."

Your Excellency will observe that, as in the case of Kavarna, the Circassians are the cause of all these outrages and suffering, but as, on the present occasion, they were accompanied by regular troops, it would seem to be true that the Government is really pursuing this suicidal policy.

I, some days ago, was informed by a number of refugees from Kavarna that they had been informed by Mussulmans that refugee women and children had been seen in the three Circassian villages—Dispilak, Tepekoni, and Gitchihr—and if so, they said these must be from Kavarna, they therefore begged me to interest myself on their behalf. I consequently brought the subject to the knowledge of Prince Hassan Pasha of Egypt, who promised he would at once adopt such measures as would bring the real truth to light, but I regret to state that, as yet, I have not heard of anything

having been done by his Highness. I am now transmitting the information I have received to Mehemet Ali Pasha, the new Commander-in-chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 118.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul Reade.

Varna, July 29, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in consequence of certain reports, I went with Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," on Thursday, the 26th instant, in the direction of Shabler.

We landed near a village called Kartolia, proceeded inland to a village called Satolmish, which we found pillaged and the church burnt. After some trouble we found a few villagers, who told us that on the 16th a party of Circassians arrived, pillaged the village, burnt the church, and drove off most of their oxen, but not their sheep. They estimated the number of oxen they originally possessed at about 350, but could not tell how many were saved.

These villagers told us that on the 25th instant there had been a massacre in the large village of Shabler, some miles distant, and that some of the fugitives from that place said that the Circassians had the intention of returning to Satolmish on the 26th to drive off the sheep and what cattle remained; therefore they were going to try to reach Mangalia with their effects, where they hoped to be pretty secure.

We now proceeded to Shabler, where we arrived about 3 o'clock P.M. As before, after a little time, several of the Bulgarian villagers turned up; some of them had been burying the bodies of two men shot in the raid of the previous day; they showed us one newly-made grave, which they said contained one of the murdered men.

They informed us that on Sunday, the 15th, the Kaimakam of Baltchik, accompanied by zaptiehs, arrived, and ordered them to pack up and leave the village. On Monday the 16th, the Kaimakam left alone for Baltchik. The same afternoon a party of Circassians arrived, drove off their carts already laden, oxen, and a large quantity of sheep; they also sacked the church, the zaptiehs making no resistance. The sacking of the church appeared to be a piece of wanton mischief, and consisted chiefly of smashing the chandeliers. The other damage could be very easily repaired.

Shabler is a large village of some 250 houses, about half Turkish and half Christian, and we could not quite make out if the cattle of the Turks were in any way respected, but it would seem that at this time all the Turkish population removed, while the Christians remained.

On the 22nd the priest fled to Kustendji, and on the 25th about seventy Circassians, accompanied by regular cavalry came to drive the people to Baltchik. On the people running away they were fired upon by both troops and Circassians, and the two men whose graves we saw were killed. They mentioned other two as killed, but it appeared that these were only wounded, for their bodies could not be found the following day.

As we were walking back to the ship, we found seven or eight villagers who had hid returning to Shabler. One (No. 3) had a large slice cut off the top of his head, including a portion of the bone, but was not much the worse for it. They gave the following list of wounded:—

1. Stephan Gotchko. } Originally thought to be killed.
2. Pampo Ivan. }
3. Ivancho.
4. Stoico.
5. Stoico's mother, wounded in the back by a dagger.
6. Urdan.
7. Pannist, son of Dandovite.
8. Ivantcho, from Karaptcha.

We saw large numbers of oxen which had escaped, and the villagers told us that if they were left alone they could still save all their crops, which this year are very good.

I call your attention to the fact that this massacre was perpetrated by troops and Circassians, and solely because the people would not retire on Baltchik; also that it happened the day after we left the Mutessarif of Varna at Baltchik, and was quite in

accordance with his expressed policy; also that at this time no small pillage was indulged in; the bucket-ropes of the wells were cut; but the copper cooking vessels, which have always been a favourite booty, were left, as we saw.

On sailing north, we passed within a cable's length of Kaliakra, and were able to see that none of the large crowd we left there on the 24th remained. We again examined that place carefully on the return voyage, 27th instant, with precisely the same result. We made inquiries at Satolmish and Shabler for those people, and were told they had not passed northwards; and we afterwards inquired at Baltchik, and found that none of them had arrived there. They must, therefore, be scattered about amongst the villages in the interior.

I desire also to call your attention to the fact that the priest of Shabler fled to Kustendji three days before anything serious occurred. As the Ottoman Government governs the Christian subjects through their priest, this is a matter of great importance.

On the afternoon of the 27th instant we called at Baltchik, and found that nearly all the Christian refugees had been sent off to Varna. We, however, found the place full of Tartars, who were also emigrating.

We only heard of one outrage to a woman, and we examined the woman, whom we found with her mother, from whose company she had never been separated. She had received part of the contents of a gun (which killed her father) in the head, and was faint from loss of blood. She had also received several blows with a stick on the back, and had been taken with her mother to mother house in Kavarna, but she had no more to complain of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 119.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 867.)

My Lord,

Therapia, July 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney on the subject of brigandage in north Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Prevesa, July 21, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that M. Kypriotis, writing under date of the 16th instant, reports a case of brigandage, committed on the 5th instant, about sunset, at Tombriki, a village of Argyrocastro. It appears that on the evening in question a band of seven brigands entered the house of a woman named Zispa and forced her to give up a sum of 70 liras, all that she possessed; but as this was not deemed sufficient, for the brigands suspected her of having large sums of money concealed in some place, they killed her by ripping up her stomach. A party of peasants, however, who, it appears, were made acquainted with what was going on, waylaid the brigands, and succeeded in wounding two of them. On the following day a regular *battue* was made by the peasants in the wood close by, and there they discovered a wounded brigand, whom they captured and brought before the authorities, in whose presence he confessed that he was the leader of the band, and is named Seimo Dikitois, and a native of the village of Zuliates.

A youth was also killed by brigands just outside Argyrocastro.

Another and more dreadful act of brigandage is reported to have been perpetrated in the district of Konitza, but of this M. Kypriotis has not yet received correct information. However, if one has to judge of the state of public security in north Epirus from the above accounts, it appears to be most unsatisfactory, and this cropping up of brigandage, I very much fear, is but one of the many evils that will, perhaps, result from the death of Husni Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 120.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 869.)
Therapia, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE informed your Lordship, in previous despatches, that I have been endeavouring to prevail upon the Grand Vizier to protect and encourage the Protestant community in Turkey. Its Vakil, or civil head, has sent to me to-day to say that the essential and vital points of the Constitution which is in future to regulate its politico-religious existence have been accepted by the Porte, thanks to the friendly assistance of his Excellency Karatheodory Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Vakil expresses himself highly satisfied with this result, and considers that, although there are still some minor matters of no importance to be arranged, the main question has been settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 121.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 871.)
Therapia, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Vice-Consul Dalziel and Captain Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," relating to the excesses committed by Circassians on Christian villages. I had directed Mr. Dalziel and Captain Drumond to report to me especially upon the plunder of Kavarna and the alleged massacre of its inhabitants. Happily the reports that had reached me of the loss of life were much exaggerated. But the destruction of property belonging to Christians and Mussulmans seems to have been very great. I have directed Mr. Sandison to communicate the substance of these despatches to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to urge upon the Porte the punishment of the Yuz Bashi, Mehemet Agha, who seems to have been guilty of most scandalous conduct, and is partly responsible for what occurred.

Captain Drummond informs me privately that the inhabitants of Kavarna and other villages pillaged by the Circassians could now return to their homes with safety, and he advises them to do so rather than allow themselves to be taken elsewhere. He says that a part of their cattle and crops have been preserved. He writes to me that: "The state of affairs at Shabler and all adjacent villages that I have seen is the same, viz., the villages plundered, the cattle driven off, and the inhabitants taking refuge in the fields. I do not think that the killed and wounded are so numerous as might be expected in carrying out such a measure of spoliation; and of outrages on women there are none." He adds that the villagers would still be able to get in a good deal of their harvest to keep them in the winter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Layard.

Varna, July 22, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that M. Christides, the Greek Vice-Consul, informed me this forenoon that he had received a telegram stating that a massacre of Christians had commenced yesterday at the village of Kavarna, some two hours distance to the north of Baltchik.

I asked him to show me his telegram, but he had lent it to M. Aubaret, the French Consul, and promised to give me a copy of it a little later.

I asked him how many had been killed? He could not say that even one had been killed, but he said perhaps the Archbishop was better informed.

This afternoon he informed me that he had received another telegram from his Consular Agent at Baltchik, stating that that town was unsafe, and requesting

instruction, whereupon he called upon the Mutessarif and asked officially if he could answer for the tranquillity of Baltchik.

The Mutessarif referred him to His Highness Prince Hassan, stating that as martial law prevailed he could make no answer. M. Christides declined to go to Prince Hassan, and telegraphed to his Consular Agent to leave Baltchik at once; he at the same time told me that troops had been sent from Bazardjik to Kavarna, and an iron-clad from Baltchik, but he did not, as promised, give me a copy of his information.

I must say I think the affairs are both very much exaggerated, and that the Greeks do so for some purpose, as any other information I could get from some Turks I met landing from a boat newly arrived was to the effect that Baltchik was quite tranquil. Moreover, my own clerk is there, and has not written to me a word of any disorders.

The mere fact of troops having been sent to Kavarna shows that the authorities are acting.

I shall, if possible, see the Mutessarif to-night, and of course do anything I can to preserve tranquillity, but I write these lines in haste by a chance opportunity to keep your Excellency informed of what rumours are afloat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 121.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Layard.

Varna, July 25, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that your telegrams of the 22nd to Captain Drummond and 23rd to myself were received last night on our return from the places referred to.

My despatch of the 22nd instant was written in great haste to catch the chance steamer "Clothilde." She, however, sailed without it, which I very much regret.

I have to report, in consequence of the alarming rumours current on the 22nd and 23rd, Captain Drummond, of the "Rapid," volunteered to sail to Cape Kaliakri and take me with him. Accordingly, I applied to the Governor for a zaptieh to accompany us. A little later the Governor sent to request a passage in the "Rapid," which was of course granted. On arriving on board the "Rapid," the Governor was accompanied by the Greek Archbishop and a member of the Episcopal Medjliss. He had also a zaptieh. The "Rapid" sailed from Varna about midnight on the 23rd instant, and arrived at Cape Kaliakri just after daybreak on the 24th. It was at once apparent that there were a large number of people on the promontory.

I may state for the information of your Excellency that Cape Kaliakri is a narrow neck of land about one mile long running in a south-easterly direction from that part of the Dobrudcha at its base, where there is the remains of an ancient wall and ditch; the distance from sea to sea may be about 100 yards and it falls in a sheer precipice on either side of somewhere about 300 feet to the sea. About half-way out it narrows to a mere causeway of about some 15 feet, which is arched over with a sort of Norman gateway, afterwards it widens out again so that a considerable space is inclosed in the citadel between the gateway and the extreme point where is situated the lighthouse. There are only two possible landing places in the whole Peninsula, one on either side, and these landing places are both outside the first ditch, so that the position is a very strong one indeed.

Our party landed at once. We were met on the beach by a few men who seemed very glad to see us; one of them informed me he had been there for eight days, having fled from a village near Kustendje.

Ascending the heights, we found the ditch guarded by sentinels, and again at the archway were sentinels, besides which one or two carts were placed so as to bar the entrance. At first we saw but few women, but near to the lighthouse we found a considerable number both of women and children; there were also a few carts and some horses and oxen and a few sheep. Those who had carts seemed to have come away with all their effects, even to their millstones for grinding corn, for I saw two parties of women grinding wheat. These were refugees from all the surrounding districts, but there had been no attack made upon them in their position. They told us that their cattle had been driven away by Circassians, Tartars, and Turks, and they themselves frightened into taking refuge there. Those from Kavarna told us there had been a fight there and that hundreds had been killed. On closer questioning,

however, they could only name three persons as having been killed, one of whom I regret to say is my old friend "Mitis Papa," a man aged 109 years. We inquired for any wounded people and found one man with a pistol bullet in his throat. He was sent on board the "Rapid," the ball successfully extracted, and afterwards at his own request landed at Baltchik. We did what we could to tranquillize the people, and the Mutessarif told them he would return by land with soldiers to protect them, also that he would send steamers to take them away. The people expressed unwillingness to leave their country, and someone said he thought they might return to their villages as the Russians, if they advanced, would be very unlikely to harm unarmed villagers; part of this advice was overheard by the Mutessarif, who at once broke in on the conversation and told them that it would be impossible for them to return to their homes, the Cossacks would rob and murder them, and if they did not the Circassians would.

It is impossible to say how many people were huddled together at Kaliakra, but there could not well have been less than 1,000, or more than 1,500. Having seen the actual state of affairs, we left and sailed for Kavarna. During the passage I had a conversation with the Mutessarif regarding the possibility of these people returning to their homes. He told me that it was the wish of the military authorities that no one should remain in the Dobrudcha between Medjidieh and Varna, and that no cattle, nor in fact anything which could be of use to the Russians, should be left. I told him that I thought this policy quite natural, but that the Government ought to have informed the peasantry of it and registered the effects of each man, and finally taken possession of it by means of the regular troops; whereas they had allowed the Circassians to appear as brigands, when, in fact, they were only carrying out the policy of the Government. The Mutessarif replied that without doubt Government would reimburse all the people after the war was over for all they had lost; but that it was the curse of the country that the Circassians, to whom they had given hospitality, should abuse it in such a way. He tried to persuade us not to land at Kavarna, or, at all events, not to go up to the upper village, stating that there were large numbers of Circassians about, and our own lives would be in danger, also that there was no one remaining in the place. We, however, declined to take his advice, and he unwillingly accompanied us. The lower village of Kavarna consists of a number of grain warehouses, with one public-house, which was the only regularly inhabited house, and at a short distance a few Tartar huts belonging to tobacco growers. We found three or four dead sheep lying about, the doors of most of the warehouses open, but the warehouses empty and the public-house wrecked.

I think it highly improbable that any grain was in these warehouses at the time of the wrecking.

We did not go over to the Tartar village.

From Kavarna port to the town is a distance of about two miles up a very steep valley, where there are some eight or nine water-mills. These were all standing, but we saw some people in two of them; we did not, however, enter any of them.

On approaching the town, Captain Drummond and myself thought it better to separate ourselves from the Mutessarif and Bishop, which we had some difficulty in doing.

The first part of the town we visited had been inhabited by a mixed population of Turks and Christians, farmers; and we found all the houses looted, furniture, &c., all carried away; bee-hives in large quantities overturned, but no houses burnt. We generally found a few books in each house, some Turkish, some Bulgarian, some Greek, and a very few French.

In the Christian houses the pictures of saints had invariably been torn down.

Having passed through the suburb, we met the Mutessarif party in the main street, which was burned from end to end; this street had consisted almost entirely of shops, and I know that many of them were kept by Mahommedans.

I here took away from the other party my zaptieh, and separated again. We pursued our way through the Christian quarter, and found as a rule that the best houses were burnt and burning.

Entering the court-yard of one we found a most revolting spectacle—a man lying on his back, quite naked, with the exception of the remains of a shirt; his brains had been dashed out from behind and covered the ground as he lay; his body was fearfully swollen, and at first we thought that his head had been burnt, so black was it; but on closer examination it appeared to be only the action of the sun, as the hair was not singed.

Passing through several other houses we came to another corpse; this time it had cotton drawers on; it had a stab in the lower part of the abdomen, a gash cut in the

the neck, and a very bad wound made in part of the left leg, which, however, may have been a bad leg; it was not like a cut, and I think it was impossible to say with certainty how it had been caused. Both bodies were in a fearful state of decomposition, and, as far as I could judge, were those of Bulgarians. After this we passed through a great many houses until we came to the other end of the town, without finding any other corpses, but in every case the houses had been thoroughly pillaged; trunks and boxes broken open strewed the court-yards, feathers and wool were lying about, apparently as if they had been emptied from the bedding to make the latter more portable.

We now went back to the main street and rejoined the other party at the konak. This building was not burnt, but was completely looted. When we joined the Mutessarif's party, we found they had been joined by another party from the Red Crescent ship "Belle of Dunkirk," and that united party had discovered three corpses, one having the head cut off; all the corpses were of men.

Leaving the remainder to rest a few minutes, I went alone through three or four houses, whose inhabitants I had formerly known, to make a thorough search for any dead body, but found none. I also went into the school (Greek), which was completely burnt.

We now went back by the valley towards the sea, and resting by a fountain for a few minutes, the thought struck me that there was yet a suburb we had left unvisited. Mentioning this to Captain Drummond, he agreed to return with me and go through it. We took one zaptieh, and were accompanied by several officers of the "Rapid" and Red Crescent ship. This suburb had been inhabited by Mahommedans; the houses were empty, and boxes and things lying about showed that it had been at least evacuated in haste. No houses were burnt, and the mosque, though deserted and the door left open, had been respected, which I believe was not the case with the Christian church.

After leaving the town we found a Bulgar who had remained in a cave, but he could give us no information, except that he had lost his family. We took him off in the "Rapid."

We also found five Tartars, one having his thumb cut off by a blow from an axe; he had just arrived from Shubla or Shabler, and told us that there were a large number of Bulgarian refugees there, one of whom had wounded him. He was attended to by the Red Crescent doctors.

When we were in Kavarna several Turks and Tartars arrived, both on horseback and on foot, but, as far as I could see, none of them were armed, and all professed ignorance of what had happened there.

We saw a good many oxen and calves, both among the ruins and feeding in the neighbourhood, and some of our party, who went to the top of a minaret, saw people thrashing corn in the outskirts. There were also large quantities of geese and other poultry.

Having thus finished, as far as we could, the examination of Kavarna, the "Rapid" weighed anchor, and we went to Baltchik. On the road the Archbishop told me that if his party had gone a little further towards the outskirts of Kavarna they would have found, he believed, more corpses. This was to me most tantalising, as it was his duty to have done the utmost to have found out the whole truth. But what can one do with such people? Here was an Archbishop, one of the very highest dignitaries of the Greek Church, out on a mission to find out what had been done to his co-religionists, and yet he assisted in hiding from us what he believed to be evidence of a crime committed against them.

The Red Crescent vessel sailed at once for Trebizond.

On arriving at Baltchik, we sent the Mutessarif on board of a Turkish iron-clad and put the Bishop and party on shore. We afterwards went ashore, a party of three—Captain Drummond, Dr. Lander, and myself. We were met at the pier by thousands of people, mostly refugees, but amongst the townspeople were many who knew me. We had a very warm reception; so much so that we had to take refuge in the house of a merchant and send for anyone we could find who had been witness to the events of Kavarna.

We found two men, whose names it may be as well that I should suppress, and they told me the following narrative:—

On Saturday the 21st, about 3 P.M., there came to Kavarna a Captain (Usebashi) of the Nizam, called Mehemet Agha, with a large party of Circassians. They summoned fifteen of the head men to come to the Konak; of these only four obeyed the summons. The Captain said, why don't the others come? Why are they afraid of

us? We have come to tell you that you must leave the town at once, as the Russians will be here, or something to that effect. To which they replied, how can we leave? We have lost all our beasts. If you will send a vessel we will go. Very good, said the Captain; you will need some Circassians to guard you in the meantime, and that will cost money. Give us 100,000 piastres (about 900*l.*) and then we will protect you until a vessel can come.

They replied, it is too much, we are poor and we cannot give it; but they offered 20,000 piastres (about 180*l.*), seeking, as they said, to gain time. The Captain then asked for a bond payable in twelve days for that amount, which one of them actually commenced to write out, though they had no intention of completing it. Now they heard the cries of people outside and became aware that the sack of the town had commenced. Immediately afterwards either the Captain Mehemet Agha or some of his attendants, it is not very certain which, commenced beating them with swords, and my informant's head was cut severely and his arm wounded. I may here mention that said informant was one of the men that we had been told in Kaliakra had been murdered. Another of the four who was also present was not wounded, and I believe no very serious damage was then done. But now they heard shots exchanged outside, and, as my informant said, some of the inhabitants driven furious, had commenced to fire upon the Circassians, who were drawn up in the square in front of the konak. This fire killed one Circassian, who was carried into the konak dead, and my informant says he believed five others were killed. I asked if any Christians were killed; he replied that he did not know of any, and that the Christians who then fired on the Circassians were hidden inside their court-yards which surrounded the square. Firing either here or somewhere else continued until 8 o'clock P.M., after which the Circassians retired, having set the town on fire in several places.

My informant had no knowledge of any women or children having been injured.

After the Circassians had retired the great bulk of the people fled either to Kaliakra or to Baltchik, but some took refuge in the school, from which they were relieved on the following morning by the arrival of an ironclad from Baltchik.

It must have been after Sunday the 22nd that the school was burnt, but of that I have no evidence whatever.

I may mention that the Mutessarif told me he had sent off a steamer full of emigrants (Varna) to Bourgas, and that on arrival there the authorities refused to let the people land, but offered to land them at Achiolo. The emigrants refused to be landed there, and he had a telegraphic correspondence with the Vali of Adrianople about it, the result of which was that they were sent to the Gulf of Ismid, also that it is intended to send the people at Kaliakra and Baltchik to Ismid, which I venture to suggest to your Excellency is scarcely a prudent measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 121.

Dr. Bolton to Vice-Consul Sankey.

Kustendji, July 22, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to forward, for your information, a list of the wounded Bulgars brought from the village of Samarasa by the Danube and Black Sea Railway Company's steam-lighter "Evelyn," and received under my care last night at 11 o'clock:—

1. Michael, aged 40. Bullet wounds, two in number (exit and entry). Point of entry situated on left side of back below ribs. The ball passing downwards and to the right side came out through the muscles of the right side of the back of thorax, at a point corresponding to the point to the last false rib. This man has also a severe wound of the left thigh. His case is very serious.

2. Dometri, aged 19. Two dagger wounds; one situated on the top of left shoulder between the shoulder joint and neck, very severe. The other, situated on the left side of the back below the scapula. He has also contracted dysentery, whilst he was hiding in the reeds on the border of the lake. His case is most serious.

3. Cristo, aged 28. Incised (knife) wound of left side of head, reaching down to the bone; very severe and dangerous.

4. Risto, aged 27. Bullet wounds, four in number, but all caused by one ball, first passing through the fleshy part of left upper arm, then entering the left side of the spine below the ribs. A very severe case. Also dangerous.

5. Constantine, aged 30. Incised gaping wounds of back. Eight inches long by two broad. Very deep; cutting not only through the muscles of the back, but also right through the left scapula itself. This wound extends from a point corresponding to the left side of the seventh conical spine to a point corresponding to the lower angle of the left scapula. This is a very serious and dangerous wound.

6. Dragan, aged 50. Knife wound of right wrist, the joint being opened between the ulnar bone and carpus. A dagger wound over the front of the region of the heart. Incisive wounds of centre of forehead. Dagger wounds of right upper arm. A large circular knife wound of the right side of back of thorax, a piece of flesh and skin, five inches long by four broad being regularly cut out. This case is most severe.

7. Sophia, female, aged 65. Wound of right breast; not very severe; slight wound left arm.

8. Demetra, female, aged 25. Knife wound of palm of left hand; not severe.

9. Jovancho, aged 19. Dagger wound of left shoulder between joint and neck. Severe, not dangerous.

Some of these wounds were inflicted eight days since. Others four or five, and others three. The massacre having been commenced on Saturday, July 13, 1877.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. BOLTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 121.

Commander Drummond to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Rapid," Varna, July* 25, 1877.

IN compliance with your Excellency's telegram, received on the 21st instant, I started in the evening of that day, having Lieutenant-Colonel Sankey on board, for Kustendji.

On my arrival at that place on the following morning I was informed that the Circassians and Tartars were pillaging and oppressing the Christians in the villages between Mangalia and Shabler, and that the small British steamer "Evelyn" had been down to a place abreast of the village Duran-Kulan, and at the village of Kaptcha, a couple of miles inland, and found the inhabitants of the last-named village had taken refuge in the middle of a lake. The Circassians and Tartars, estimated at 1,000, were seen by the party on board the "Evelyn" retreating. These marauders had pillaged and set fire to the village, killed 5 men, wounded 16 men and women, and carried off 22 girls. The "Evelyn" took back to Kustendji about 380 people; but unfortunately, by the capsizing of the small boat, a number of women and children (variously stated from 21 to 41) were drowned.

On this information I immediately started for the scene of disorder, and on arriving at a place about ten miles north of Shabler, I sent on shore to get information from the Bulgars, who could be seen at work in the fields, and who at first showed a disposition to run away. They, however, stated that their village had not been troubled, and that the country generally along the coast as far as Kaliakra was quiet, and that a number of people had taken refuge at Kaliakra. Finding that I could be of no use at this place, I returned to Kustendji, and landed the Vice-Consul.

I there saw M. Belo-Cherkovitz, the Russian Governor, who assured me that the Russian authorities have no objection whatever to the presence of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" at Kustendji, or to the ship going to Varna and that port, stating that he would entirely confide in me in the matter of taking away any information.

As Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" was, and probably will be, the only means of communication between Varna and Kustendji, and as I thought it desirable to go to Kavarna, I again left on the 22nd, and arrived at this place on Monday evening.

Having informed Mr. Dalziel, the Vice-Consul, of my intention to go to Kaliakra and Kavarna, he was good enough to accompany me. I also received on board the Mutessarif of this place and the Greek Archbishop, who asked me to allow them to come; so at midnight of Monday I sailed from Varna, arriving at Kaliakra at 4·20 A.M., where I landed with the Consul, and found that a number of Christians, estimated at 2,000, had taken refuge at the very extremity of Cape Kaliakra—a very good defensive position, and safe from any attack by horsemen. They were from the

surrounding villages—a large number from Kavarna—but were not in any immediate distress. They desired a safe conduct from the Government to enable them to return to their villages. There was but one wounded man among them, whom I took on board, and landed at Baltschik.

At 7·45 A.M. I anchored off Kavarna, and arriving at the village, which is about two miles inland, and said to contain about 700 houses, I found that it had been entirely pillaged, and was deserted, and I should say that 100 houses, including the school-house, had been destroyed by fire. I myself saw but two dead bodies, but I estimate the number of dead seen by different persons of our party at eight, and in one case I was informed that the body was decapitated.

On my return to the ship I proceeded to Baltschik, where were two Turkish iron-clads, one bearing the flag of Admiral Hassan P.

At Baltschik there are a large number of Christian refugees from different villages, and the inclosed statement of the origin of the disturbance at Kavarna was made before me and Vice-Consul Dalziel by two of the principal persons of that place.

I returned to this anchorage last evening, and beg to inform your Excellency that it is my intention to proceed to sea to-night and remain about the coast of Shabler and Kavarna, returning to this place by Friday night, as I think the presence of a ship may possibly afford some assistance to the Christians.

I have also the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 21st, and to forward also a list of wounded given to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Sankey.

I only received your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd, directing me to proceed to Kavarna on my return from that place, last night.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. DRUMMOND.

Inclosure 5 in No. 121.

Statement made at Baltschik before Commander Drummond and Vice-Consul Dalziel.

ABOUT 3 p.m. Saturday the Usbachi of regulars, named Mehemet Aga, came with some Circassians to the Konak, and summoned fifteen head men to meet him.

Teryi Demetri, Constantino Papasolo, Demetri Kyramo and Pietri Chaskiosolo went to the Konak. The Ubaschi demanded of these men why they were afraid, said we are come to protect you, when are you going to leave, to which they replied how can we go away, we have lost all our cattle and horses? If you will send a vessel, we will go. Very good, said the Ubaschi, you will want some Circassians to guard you. You give us 100,000 piastres, and we will make it all right. The men said it was too much, but said they would go and see if they could raise it. They all went to Demetri's house to confer. Demetri and Pietri went back to the Konak, and said they would give 20,000 piastres. The Usbachi then demanded (as they could not pay the money at once) a stamped document promising to pay 20,000 piastres in twelve days, and, on Demetri and Pietri refusing, began to beat them. They were on the point of writing the paper, when they learnt that the Circassians had commenced to pillage the shops. The pillage and firing then became universal, and continued until about 8 p.m., when the Circassians retired, after having set the town on fire in various places. The Greeks who had arms attempted to defend themselves round and about the Konak, and it is thought that five or six Circassians are killed. No idea of the number of Christians killed or wounded. When the Circassians left, the Christian population fled for safety, some to Baltschik, some to Kalinkra and adjacent villages, and a number took refuge in the school. The next morning Turkish steamers arrived, and the Captain and the Kaimakam landed and told the Christians that, if they liked, they would be received on board and taken to Baltschik. A large number went. The Turkish population went off with the Circassians, taking arabas from the Christians when they wanted.

I am informed that it might be desirable not to divulge the names of the Christians herein referred to, as it might embroil them with the Turkish authorities.

(Signed) E. DRUMMOND.

Inclosure 6 in No. 121.

Mr. Layard to Commander Drummond.

Sir, *Therapia, July 28, 1877.*

I HAVE to thank you for your interesting report respecting the excesses committed by Circassians and other marauders upon villages in the Dobrudcha and elsewhere, and especially upon Kavarna. You have carried out the instructions which I gave you to my entire satisfaction, and have furnished me with trustworthy and important information which is of much value. I approve of your suggestion to visit the coast between Varna and Kustendji, calling at places where your presence may be useful for the protection of life and property. You should also, I think, extend your cruize to the coast between Varna and Bourgas.

I shall be obliged by your continuing to report to me any information of importance that may come to your knowledge, and generally upon the condition of the population of the places at which you may call.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 122.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 872.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July 31, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three telegrams which have been communicated to me by the Porte, relative to the outrages which have been committed on the Mussulman population by Russians and Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 122.

The Government of Adrianople to the Minister of the Interior.

(Télégraphique.) *Andrinople, le 26 Juillet, 1877.*

LES insurgés ayant brûlés sept à huit villages Musulmans du côté de Sahra j'ai expédié des détachements mixtes pour examiner, et d'après ce qui m'a été rapporté ces insurgés sont des habitants Chrétiens des villages de Teherpan et Zagharaintik. Ces insurgés, le feu à la main, brûlent les villages et, lorsqu'on a voulu les arrêter, ont tiré leurs armes. Sur ce trois d'entre eux ont été tués et deux ont été arrêtés et pris vivants. Douze maisons appartenant à des Musulmans et une grande ferme du village dit Divaynaligui, du district de Teherpan, ont été la proie des flammes allumées par les Chrétiens du dit village et des environs. Deux Musulmans, trois femmes et cinq enfants, ont été retrouvés dans un dépôt de bois et amenés. Le Mutessarif de Philippopoli et le Caïmacam de Teherpan m'informent que du côté de Sahra il ne reste que deux villages Musulmans qui ont échappé aux flammes.

Inclosure 2 in No. 122.

Suleyman Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)
(Extrait.) *Kara Bounar, le 26 Juillet, 1877.*

LES deux colonnes qui avaient été envoyés, l'une sous le commandement du Général de Brigade Khouloussi Pacha, et l'autre sous le commandement du Colonel d'Etat-Major Omer Bey, pour réparer les dégats commis par l'ennemi sur les lignes de Cayadjik et de Radina, viennent de rentrer à Cara-bounar. Cette expédition a eu entre autres pour résultat de constater les faits suivants:—

En allant à Radina, les bataillons et les cavaliers commandés par Omer Bey virent brûler le village Musulman de Zéfahi, sis à gauche de la ligne, à deux heures de distance de Cara-bounar. Ils furent lancés sur le champ vers ce village, mais ils ne purent mettre la main sur les incendiaires Bulgares, lesquels en voyant arriver les

troupes Impériales, s'étaient réfugiés sur les hauteurs environnantes. Une partie seulement de ces malfaiteurs s'enfuit dans la direction de Djadi Gueul, village Bulgare sis également à gauche de la ligne à une demie heure de distance du village brûlé. Les troupes Impériales poursuivirent et atteignirent les fugitives dans Djadi Gueul même. Les Bulgares de la localité étaient en train de se sauver après avoir chargés tous leurs effets sur des chariots, lorsqu'ils se virent cernés par notre cavalerie. Alors ils abandonnèrent leurs chariots, montèrent sur leurs animaux dételés, et prirent la fuite. Le petit nombre qui venait de se réfugier dans le village commença à tirer sur les troupes, qui durent riposter.

Dans cette affaire il y eut une cinquantaine de morts; cinquante autres Bulgares furent saisis vivants, et amenés ici. Leur interrogatoire se poursuit à l'heure qu'il est.

Les Bulgares de Djadi Gueul volèrent, mutilèrent, et assassinèrent les femmes et jeunes filles Musulmanes qu'ils avaient emportées du village de Zéfahi par eux incendiés. L'arrivée des troupes Impériales ne leur laissa pas le temps d'achever une mère et ses deux fillettes qu'ils venaient d'outrager. Ces malheureuses furent recueillies dans une maison de Djadi Gueul et amenés ici.

Les femmes et les enfants Bulgares qui gardaient leurs maisons n'ayant pu s'échapper furent également transportées à Cara-bounar, et de là à Andrinople.

On vit encore l'incendie des deux autres villages désertés situés à droite et à gauche de la ligne.

Il est constaté que ce sont surtout les Bulgares de Djadi Gueul et des autres villages sis des deux côtés de la ligne et brûlés par leurs propres habitants, ce sont ces mêmes Bulgares qui ont détruit la voie ferrée de Radina avec de la dynamite donnée par les Russes.

La colonne de Khoulousi Pacha ayant également aperçu des habitations en flammes, la cavalerie se rendit sur les lieux et se trouva en présence d'un village mixte assez considérable, sis à gauche de la Maritza, sur les deux versants d'un ravin. A la vue des troupes Impériales, les habitants Bulgares de la localité se sauvèrent. Poursuivis par la cavalerie, dix-neuve d'entre eux furent arrêtés et conduits à Cara-bounar, où ils sont soumis en ce moment à l'interrogatoire.

Par ce qui précède, l'on voit que les Bulgares ont pris le parti de brûler non-seulement les villages Musulmans, mais encore leurs propres villages, et de s'enfuir avec leurs familles dans les Balkans, où ils vont rejoindre les Russes.

Inclosure 3 in No. 122.

Raouf Pasha to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

Yeni-Zaghra, le $\frac{16}{28}$ Juillet, 1877.

DANS leur retraite de Yeni-Zaghra les Russes ont massacré 345 Musulmans de sept villages dépendant d'Eski-Zaghra. Deux ou trois familles ont pu seules s'échapper au massacre et sont venues porter leurs gémissements jusqu'à moi.

No. 123.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 8.*)

(No. 873.)

Therapia, July 31, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Varna, Adrianople, and Philippopolis, and of a telegram from Colonel Lennox, having reference to massacres and outrages which have taken place in different parts of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure 1 in No. 123.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Shumla, July 23, 1877.

HAVING on my arrival here heard that a number of Mussulman men, women, and children, said to have been attacked and wounded by Russian troops, were lying here, I obtained permission to see them.

I have the honour to inclose a list of those whom I saw, and who were lying in a "teke," a Dervish mosque, and apparently well cared for. I saw most of their wounds, and spoke to them.

Several of the elder ones gave very clear accounts of what had occurred to them (as they all said) by horsemen carrying lances, and many of them stated that they were attacked in the long grass where they were hiding themselves. One poor infant, of about nine months, had two frightful gashes on the head, and had one toe cut off.

Most of them had lance-thrusts about their bodies; some, sabre-cuts. I saw them one by one, and a more sickening spectacle I seldom witnessed, not only from the nature of the wounds, but also from the youth and simplicity of the younger ones.

As regards the rumour that any of these attacks were committed by Bulgarians, I am happy to be able to state that, according to those I saw, not one such case has occurred. I asked all the sufferers one by one, separately, if they had been maltreated by any Bulgarian Christian, or if they had heard of any such case; they one and all said not.

From what all asserted these cruelties can only be attributed to Cossacks, as the perpetrators were all described as "horsemen with lances."

The number of these victims is increasing, as others are brought in daily; and from what those I saw said, a considerable number must have been killed on the spot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

List of Wounded Women and Children lying in the Teké, or Dervish Mosque, at Shumla, and visited by Consul Reade.

1. Habibe: a woman aged 25 years. Wounded in the back by a lance.
2. Mehemed: a boy aged 7 years. Wounded in the left thigh by a lance. Son of No. 1.
3. Ibrahim: a boy aged 5 years. Wounded on the right thigh by a lance: also son of No. 1.
4. Hava: a woman aged 25 years. Lance-wound on the head.
5. Aishé: a woman aged 30 years. Arm and head wound by a sabre; a lance-wound on the breast.
6. Mehemet: a boy aged 6 years. Stomach pierced by a lance. Son of No. 5.
7. Anfe: a woman aged 24. Four sabre-cuts on the head, three lance-thrusts on left leg, one on right shoulder, and one on right thigh. Sabre-cut on right hand.
8. Nazifé: a girl aged 15. Sabre-cuts on breast and back; lance-thrust on right foot and right thigh.
9. Mustapha: an infant of about 9 months of age. Top of head frightfully lacerated by a sabre. Toe of right foot cut off. This was a sickening spectacle.
10. Féridé: a woman aged 55 years. Right shoulder wounded by lance. Right hand cut off. Lance wound on back.
11. Eminé: a girl aged 9 years. Three sabre-cuts on head and one on back.
12. Muzçié: a girl aged 12 years. Trampled upon by a horse and severely wounded.
13. Féridé: a woman aged 40 years. Lance-wound on back.
14. Mustafa: a boy aged 9 years. Lance-wound on left leg. Son of No. 13.
15. Fatmé: a girl aged 12 years. Right thigh wounded by lance. Daughter of No. 13.
16. Gursun: a woman aged 32 years. Lance-wound on back.
17. Aishé: a girl aged 7 years. Lance-wound on head.

18. Abrahim: a boy aged 9 years. Sabre-cut on head. Lance-wounds on forehead and thigh.

(Signed) R. READE.

Shumla, July 22, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 123.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, July* 28, 1877.

IT is my painful duty to report to your Excellency a terrible massacre by Bulgarians of the district of Tirnova, under the protection of the Russian troops, that occurred on the 7th and 8th July last, and which I had heard of, but which I thought it best not to report until I had obtained something reliable thereon.

I yesterday heard that an old man who had escaped from this massacre had arrived, and was staying with his son, a private in a battalion here. I accordingly invited him to come and give me details of his escape. He did so, and I took down his statement, copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

The old man is about seventy-five years of age, and he told his sad tale in a manner that convinced me that he was telling the truth. His story is, moreover, corroborated by what was told me a short time ago by one of the German newspaper correspondents who had just arrived from the vicinity of the scenes of these massacres.

I afterwards asked him if he thought that there were massacres in any other districts. He replied that he did not know, but from what he had heard he was afraid that there were.

Your Excellency will observe, from what the single Russian said, that this was in retaliation of the destruction of the monastery of Drenova last year, so that if all the massacres of last year are to be avenged in a similar manner there can be no doubt as to what we may expect if the European Powers do not intervene.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. READE,

Inclosure 4 in No. 123.

Statement of Osman Mehemet Oglu, aged 75, native of the Village of Balvan, consisting of 200 houses, exclusively Mussulman, and in the District of Tirnova, in the Vilayet of the Danube.

ON Saturday three weeks ago (7th July N. S.) the Russians attacked the village of Balvan, called some of us out and asked whether we would fight or surrender, and if we chose the latter, he added, that we were to give up our arms. We replied that we had no power to fight, and, consequently, we placed our arms on a cart and took them to their camp. The Russians, who received them the same day, went to Tirnova.

Next morning, Russians, accompanied by Bulgarians, came from Musina with twelve guns, which they pointed at Balvan, at the same time placing sentries on every side of the village.

Meanwhile the Bulgarians from Musina, Jilar, Sisear, Balvan-Mahallé, Kaliman, Ileüsa, Balvanisa, Kerjak, and Drenova, entered the village and also the houses, took away first all our cattle and then all our effects.

While the Bulgarians were plundering our village we went to complain to the Russians and begged them to stop the pillage. Some of the Russians looked at a map and then went off, but one of them answered thus:—"During the insurrection last year you killed the Bulgarians and plundered and burnt the monastery, for this reason they now retaliate." He then went away and left the village to the Bulgarians.

The burning of the monastery, however, happened thus:—During the insurrection last year, the Bulgarians from the surrounding villages were collected at Musina, and passing along our village they wounded one of our shepherds. When informed of it we followed them and drove them into the monastery of Drenova. The troops from Tirnova afterwards came and carried on hostilities for ten days, when Fazli Pasha arrived with two guns and destroyed the monastery. Some of the Bulgarians escaped, but most of them perished.

We, seeing that there was no hope for us, collected all our women and children in the Mosque. About 11 o'clock (Turkish time 6·30 P.M.) the Bulgarians surrounded it and massacred all except my son, 22 years of age (whom I left at Shumla as a soldier), and myself.

In this massacre I lost my wife, a daughter, two daughters-in-law, two grandsons, and two grand-daughters, of whom our family consisted.

He further added: Kastambal was burnt the same day, only in the morning. Most of the inhabitants were massacred, and those that remained alive fled to our village, where all were massacred and the village burnt.

He also said: the same night the villages Kajabunar, Kolemence, Batak, and Pavlikan were also burnt and the inhabitants massacred.

Question by Consul Reade. Did the Bulgarians interfere with you in any way before the arrival of the Russians?—*A.* No.

Q. What sort of troops were those that attacked you?—*A.* Chiefly horsemen with lances, and who wore white caps.

Q. With what arms did the Bulgarians attack you?—*A.* With lances and swords of the Russians and with yatughans.

Q. Did you recognize any of the Bulgarians?—*A.* Oh, yes; a good many. They were from the villages in our vicinity.

Q. How did you escape?—*A.* When we saw that no one was spared, old or young, taking advantage of a number of cattle that were passing the mosque, my son managed to get me into a wood close by, where we hid ourselves till dark, and then went off from village to village.

Taken down in my presence,

(Signed) R. READE, *Her Majesty's Consul.*

Varna, July 28, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 123.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, July* 22, 1877.

I HAD the honour to address to your Excellency a telegram, yesterday at 4 P.M., worded as follows:—

"The Austrian Vice-Consul informs me that acts of retaliation have been committed at Yeni-Zaghra, and that a Secretary of the German Embassy and the 'Times' correspondent have been there and seen corpses of men and women. I cannot go there or send Mr. Calvert, as the place is occupied by Russians."

The Austrian Consul further tells me that the Secretary and the correspondent counted no less than ten corpses, but that owing to the approach of the Russians they had to leave Yeni-Zaghra before completing their inquiries into these outrages. The Consul could not say whether these outrages were perpetrated by the native Turks or by fugitive Bashi-Bazouks from the recent engagements with the Russians, as is asserted by the Bulgarians here, and is most likely the case.

The accounts which the Bulgarian notables here inform me they have obtained from indirect sources are far more serious and horrible. They mention upwards of 300 men and women as having been killed by the Bashi-Bazouks, who then plundered and burnt the Christian quarter of the town.

The Mutessarif and others assure me that Yeni-Zaghra has not been occupied by the Russians, as stated by the Austrian Consul, although Cossack patrols have been quite close to it. Abdul Hamid Pasha tells me further that Raouf Pasha is there with his division.

If communications with Yeni-Zaghra are still open to-morrow, I shall send Mr. Edmund Calvert there to make inquiries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 123.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, July* 31, 1877, 2 P.M.

GOVERNOR of Philippopoli and Tchirpan report by telegraph growing excitement among Bulgarians who have attacked Turkish village of Karadjaviran in Tchirpan district, near Eski Zaghra, and have been killing and wounding men and women there and other places.

Inclosure 7 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, July 21, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, in connection with the measures taken by the Consular Corps and leading inhabitants of Philippopoli for the protection of the safety of the town, as reported by me yesterday, that in consequence of a deputation composed of the representatives of the different communities from Tatar Bazardjik, which waited on my Greek colleague, begging that we would assist them in making similar arrangements, a second Consular meeting was held here yesterday afternoon, the result of which was that my Greek and French colleagues were deputed to proceed to Bazardjik to endeavour to calm the fears of the population and promote a feeling of mutual friendliness and confidence between the different communities, as had already been done in this town.

The Greek and French Vice-Consuls returned here this morning and report having completely succeeded in their mission, the representatives at Bazardjik having shown a most praiseworthy willingness to co-operate together in the general interests.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, July 22, 1877.

Sir,

IN acknowledging receipt of your despatch of the 21st instant, inclosing copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Under-Secretary of State, conveying his Lordship's approval of the proceedings taken by you and by myself in the matter of the non-payment of the stipends promised by the Porte to certain priests of the destroyed villages in this sandjak, I have the pleasure to inform you that twenty-one of the forty priests on the list presented by the Bulgarian Bishop here received their stipends, including all arrears from the date when they were accorded. The Bulgarian Bishop, I regret to say, appears to me throughout this matter to have acted in a way which betrayed an unwillingness that the Government should gain the credit of succouring the indigent priests of his diocese.

The Mutessarif, according to his promise mentioned in my despatch of the 14th ultimo, communicated to me a list of the priests disapproved of by the Porte as recipients of its bounty. His Excellency also directly communicated their names to the bishop. But the latter has tacitly refused to modify his list by substituting any other ecclesiastics in the place of those whose names were cancelled.

As his Eminence also abstained from complying with the request of the Government that he would notify to the four priests approved of by the Porte that their stipends would be paid by the local treasury, the Mutessarif himself, acting on my advice, sent for the priests in question, who, on application at the Konak, immediately received the promised bounty.

The bishop, I have now to report, was a day or two ago, by a telegram from the Exarchate, relieved of his functions, and ordered to withdraw at once to a monastery in the Ruptchur district. His successor is the present Archimandrita of Tchirpan, whose appointment, I believe, is equally satisfactory to the authorities and the Bulgarian community, though the latter are anxious that their Metropolitan Archbishop now in Constantinople should, in these critical times, return to his see.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 23, 1877.

Sir,

THE Minister of Justice, at present on a mission in Adrianople, related to me yesterday that the Russians on entering a Turkish town or village read and distribute to the people the Emperor's Proclamation to the Bulgarians, which is printed in the Turkish and Bulgarian languages.

The inhabitants are then told they must consider the Russian authorities their masters, and that if they submit no harm will befall them, and they will be allowed to remain in peace and quiet on their giving up their arms; but the most incredible part of the story is, that shortly after the withdrawal of the arms, it appears they are distributed to the Bulgarians, who immediately fall upon and kill the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 10 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 25, 1877.

Sir,

CALLING on Ali Pasha this morning, he confirmed in the main the intelligence I did myself the honour to telegraph your Excellency last night, namely, that the Russians had crossed the River Maritza in the neighbourhood of Tirnova Seimenly Junction, and taken up both lines of railway and set Hasskeui partly on fire, but added that these acts were chiefly the doing of Bulgarians in Russian clothing—that the Russians themselves were not above 500 or 600.

Among other items of intelligence he informed me that both the Russians and Bulgarians had murdered in cold blood the whole of the Mussulman populations of Kalofer and Karlowa, not even sparing old men, women, or children, and carried off young women and girls. Ali Pasha told me that he was recalled to Constantinople, and that his successor, Ibrahim Pasha, of Bosnia, was expected this evening.

Captain Fife leaves this evening for Tirnova Seimenly Junction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

Inclosure 11 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the local Government will, as soon as possible, send a force of regular troops, from 100 men and upwards, to be stationed in every village, according to size and importance, for the protection and safety of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. H. DUPUIS.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure 12 in No. 123.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

(Télégraphique.) *Yeni-Zaghrá, le 28 Juillet*, 1877.

HIER a eu lieu, près de Yeni-Zagrah, une affaire entre un régiment de dragons Russes et une partie de la force Ottomane. Les Russes étaient repoussés après le combat, selon les procès-verbaux faits par moi des survivants. Deux cavaliers Russes sont entrés dans le village de Kudirbe. Dans ce village se trouvaient réunis déjà plusieurs jours les familles Turques des villages de Kudirbe, Jaserin, et Drimbasli. Les hommes étaient privés de leurs armes par les Bulgares, qui ne les permettaient pas de s'échapper, et qui avaient pris leurs arabas et bestiaux. Les deux Russes ont tirés sur la porte de la maison où la plupart se trouvaient, et les Bulgares l'enfoncèrent avec pierres. Les Bulgares ont tiré alors des murailles sur les hommes qui étaient dans la cour. Le prêtre les encourageait plus tard. On a tué des femmes et les enfants qui étaient dans les maisons avec épées ou couteaux. Les jeunes filles ils gardent encore. Les Turcs n'avaient que des bâtons, et n'ont réussi qu'assommer un Bulgare. Il y avait 500 personnes. Les quatre hommes, trois femmes, et deux enfants qui sont arrivé ici content cette histoire, et prétendent être les seules qui ont échappé. Le terrain, dit-on, était comblé de cadavres, mais qu'ils doivent rester de vivants dans les garniers. Les raconteurs de ces malheurs étaient fort émus, et les témoignages des individus divers s'accordaient et semblaient dignes de croyance. Nous partons aujourd'hui pour Slivno, et Lundi partirons de là pour Shumla. Envoyez nos lettres au Consul, Varna.

No. 124.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 874.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1877.

I AM transmitting to your Lordship to-day by the messenger copies of various despatches from our Consular Agents, and other sources, relating to outrages committed by the Russian troops upon the Mussulman population of the Ottoman territory which they have invaded. The Porte has published many detailed statements on the subject, but as they are open to the suspicion of being exaggerated, I have thought it better not to forward them to your Lordship. There can now be little doubt that the Russians are waging this war in a cruel and barbarous manner, and that the Cossacks and the Bulgarian Christians, by whom they are accompanied, are burning Mussulman villages, driving away their inhabitants, and in many instances slaughtering them. The evidence to this effect appears to be perfectly clear, and, coming from many independent and trustworthy witnesses, can scarcely be called in question.

It would scarcely be proper to accuse Russian Generals and the Russian Government of deliberately encouraging or sanctioning the extermination of the Mahommedans of Bulgaria; but I fear that there are influential persons who believe that the only way to Russianize Bulgaria, and to reduce the province to a complete state of dependency on Russia, is to destroy or remove the whole Mussulman population from it. There are even some in England who appear to think that this is the best mode of settling the Turkish question. The Bulgarian Christians, under the impulse of religious fanaticism, and eager to revenge former injuries, and protected by the Cossacks, are not slow in seconding this policy by burning Mussulman villages and plundering the property and taking the lives of their inhabitants. What they are now doing appears to prove what they would have done had they succeeded last year in continuing the atrocities which they had commenced upon the Mussulmans, and which drew upon them the terrible revenge that justly caused the indignation of Europe. A considerable part of Bulgaria, and of some of the districts to the south of the Balkans, has been laid waste and depopulated by this joint action of Cossacks and Bulgarians. Constantinople, Varna, Adrianople, and many other cities and towns, are full of refugees who have escaped the Cossack lance and Bulgarian knife to die of famine and disease. Nothing could be more shocking than the accounts which reach me from all sides of their sufferings. If Russia succeeds in reducing Bulgaria to the condition of a Russian province she will, no doubt, accomplish her object of putting an end to a mixed population. If she does not, and the Mussulmans return, it is to

be feared that, after what has happened, it will be very difficult to establish friendly relations between them and the Christians.

On the other hand, I have to transmit to your Lordship reports of shocking excesses recently committed by Circassians and other marauders upon Christian villages in Bulgaria and Roumelia. The state of anarchy in which the country has fallen in consequence of the war has encouraged these lawless people to rob and ill-treat their neighbours. The measures taken by the Porte to remove the inhabitants and cattle of certain districts on the approach of the Russians, the execution of which has, unfortunately, in many instances been intrusted to Circassian irregular cavalry, has added to the evil. There are one or two very bad cases which I have reported to your Lordship, amongst them that of Kawarna. I have brought them to the serious attention of the Porte, and have especially urged the punishment of the Yuz Bashi, Mehemet Aga, who is mentioned in the Reports of Vice-Consul Dalziel, and Captain Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," as being mainly responsible for the plunder and destruction of that place. I have constantly urged upon the Turkish Government the importance of adopting measures to restrain the Circassians, and of making a severe example of those who may be guilty of outrages and excesses. It promises to do so, but seems impotent to perform its promise. The local authorities frequently take to flight on the least alarm, leaving the population to the mercy of every kind of marauder. Nothing could well be worse than the condition of many parts of the Empire, in Europe and Asia, at the present time. To the representations made on the subject to the Porte the reply invariably is that Russia has forced Turkey into a gigantic war, in which her very existence is at stake, and that her only thought and care must now be to use every man that she can dispose of to fight her enemy. When the war is at an end the Government will turn its attention to the police and to the establishment and maintenance of internal order.

It must be stated, in justice to the Turks as distinguished from the Circassians, Kurds, and what may be called the tribal population, that they have not hitherto been guilty of excesses and outrages upon the Christians. On the contrary, the accounts that I receive from our Consular Agents in Roumelia and Bulgaria agree in stating that where the Russians have not penetrated, or their agents have not succeeded in inciting the Christians against their Mahomedan fellow-subjects, the relations between them are friendly, and the former have no reason to complain. The regular troops too, with some few exceptions, have behaved well, have maintained their discipline, and have not been guilty of injuries to the peaceable population.

I think it right to make these observations to your Lordship, as no doubt accounts of a very exaggerated nature, some perhaps entirely unfounded, are sent to the European (and especially to the English) press, of Turkish, Bulgarian, and Russian "atrocities." When "atrocity"-hunting correspondents bid against each other for dead bodies of Christians and Mussulmans, there will no doubt be a ready supply of both; and it may be feared that such a way of discovering "atrocities" might possibly lead to them. The reports that are circulated by the Greeks of the destruction of Christian villages, and the massacre of their inhabitants, must also be received with great caution. They are invented with an evident object, and are so minute and complete in their details that they are calculated to deceive even the most wary. There are enough real "atrocities" committed to render it unnecessary to invent others.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 125.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 875.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 1, 1877.

THERE has been a panic for some days past in Pera and Galata, and in the Christian quarters of Constantinople. It was believed that Adrianople was about to fall immediately, and that the Russians were going to march at once on Constantinople. A large number of persons, amongst them many English, have left the city for other parts of Europe, or have sent away their wives and children. Their fears have, I am disposed to think, been very much exaggerated, as probably will be the accounts sent to England and published in the newspapers. As long as the Sultan and his Government remain in the capital I do not apprehend any real danger. If

they were to abandon it the state of affairs might be different, and there probably would be very serious cause for alarm. At present I do not hear that there is any unusual excitement on the part of the Mussulman population against the Christians, and nothing has yet occurred to disturb the public peace. Indeed, I venture to believe that in no large city of Europe would there be, under such circumstances as those in which this Empire is now placed, so much order and quiet.

The arrival of many thousands of victims of the cruel manner in which Russia is waging this war has no doubt caused feelings of great indignation amongst the Mussulmans. But they have not as yet shown any disposition to vent it upon the Christians. The Turks, notwithstanding the bad character they now enjoy in England, are, on the whole, a humane and charitable people. The women and children who have come to Constantinople utterly destitute have been taken in and cared for by the principal Turkish families. Aarifi Pasha, who was for a few days Minister for Foreign Affairs, told me that he had received several into his house, and amongst them one or two Christians. Turks are foolish enough to do their acts of charity quietly and unobtrusively, instead of publishing them in newspapers and announcing them at public meetings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 126.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 876.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to state that Aarifi Pasha, who was named Minister for Foreign Affairs a few days ago, on the dismissal of Safvet Pasha, has resigned, and has been succeeded by Server Pasha, recently President of the Senate.

Aarifi Pasha, who is a man of a quiet, amiable, and retiring disposition, was appalled by the task he found he had undertaken, and, not feeling himself equal to it, retired.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 127.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 877.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 1, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an appeal to Mussulmans to fight in the holy war against Russia and not to run away, which has been published by the Government in the Turkish newspapers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Extract from "La Turquie" of July 31, 1877.

LES journaux Turcs ont publié hier la communication officielle suivante :—

"Tout le monde sait que les Russes sans justice ni raison nous ont déclaré la guerre et ont envahi notre pays. Ils brûlent et détruisent toutes les localités qu'ils trouvent sans défense. Ils tuent et massacrent nos frères en religion ainsi que nos autres compatriotes, fidèles sujets du Padischah. Ils font subir aux femmes et enfants les traitements les plus cruels, les vexations et les outrages les plus honteux, choses que même le peuple le plus sauvage et le plus perfide aurait répudiées.

"En présence de cet état de choses, tous les Musulmans ont considéré qu'il est de leur devoir de faire la guerre sacrée pour la sauvegarde du pays et de la nation.

"Par conséquent, le Gouvernement Impérial s'est hâté, afin de délivrer la population des maux de l'invasion, de faire marcher sur cet ennemi perfide tous les soldats

de l'armée active, ainsi que les rédifs et les mustehafiz, qui sont aujourd'hui aux prises avec l'ennemi.

"Toutefois, devant l'imminence du danger qui menace l'Empire, la patrie et la nation, ce devoir n'incombe pas exclusivement aux troupes précitées, mais aussi bien à tous les Musulmans capables de porter les armes et de faire la guerre. C'est pourquoi le Khalifat et le Sultanat, conformément au 'Cher'i,' a fait appel à tous les Musulmans zélés.

"Il est satisfaisant d'avoir à constater que cet appel a été accueilli avec empressement, et que partout il s'est formé des corps de volontaires, cavaliers et fantassins, lesquels, après avoir reçu de la population des chevaux et des habits, et du Gouvernement des armes, sont aujourd'hui en face de l'ennemi.

"Cependant il a été constaté que parmi ces volontaires il s'est trouvé des gens, sans honneur et sans zèle, qui, n'appréciant pas la sainte mission dont ils sont chargé, ont pris honteusement la fuite. Quelques-uns d'entre eux ont déserté leurs rangs en route, d'autres ont pris la fuite aussitôt après leur arrivée sur le théâtre de la guerre.

"Prendre la fuite lorsqu'on est chargé de par la loi du 'Cher'i' de faire la guerre sacrée; lorsqu'on reçoit à cet effet des chevaux, des habits et des armes; lorsqu'enfin les femmes mêmes envoient toutes sortes de secours à nos frères qui sont en face de l'ennemi; c'est mériter, conformément à la loi, les plus sévères punitions.

"Mais ce délit étant attribué à leur ignorance, il a été décidé, afin de les préserver des sévérités de la loi, de rechercher et de prendre ces fuyards partout où ils se trouvent et de les incorporer dans les bataillons de l'armée active, où ils serviront pendant quatre ans consécutifs. Ceux qui seront pris aux alentours de Constantinople seront envoyés à Constantinople et les autres aux postes militaires les plus proches.

"Cette décision ayant été sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial, a été communiquée à tous les vilayets et mutessarifats pour qu'elle soit mise à exécution. C'est à cet effet qu'elle est publiée dans les journaux de Constantinople."

No. 129.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 96.)
My Lord *Tehran, June 22, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Lordship that Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tabreez has informed me by telegraph that he is of opinion that the Persian Koords who lately crossed the border with the ostensible object of assisting the Turks are really only seeking indiscriminate plunder; and that if these Koordish irregulars be permitted to enter the district of Tyasee, the Christian population of that place will be exposed to great danger.

In a telegram of a later date he states that a convent and several Christian villages within Turkish territory have been pillaged by some Persian Koords belonging to the tribe Shekakee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 130.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 100.)
My Lord, *Tehran, July 2, 1877.*

SINCE the arrival of General Franchini here, I have endeavoured to ascertain the object of his visit, but I have been unable to discover that he has as yet entered upon any negotiation with the Persian Government.

Shortly after his arrival he was presented to the Shah by M. Zenoview, and since then he has been present at several of the interviews which the Russian Minister has had with the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs. He appears to be principally occupied at present in obtaining information with respect to the condition of the Persian army.

A review was given by order of the Shah, to which the foreign Legations were invited, when the troops encamped at Tehran, consisting of 8,000 infantry and 2,000

irregular horse were paraded, with fifty-two guns, mostly 9 and 12-pounders. This review was no doubt given on General Franchini's account. At its conclusion the Europeans were invited to the Shah's tent, and in the course of conversation having been asked by His Majesty his opinion of the troops, General Franchini said he was satisfied with the appearance they made. He has since asked to see the artillery at practice and to visit the arsenal.

The Persian Government continues to give me the most positive, persistent, and explicit assurances that up to the present time no overtures or proposal of any kind have been made by him to the Shah or his Minister, and although he has been now here for a month no indication has yet appeared which would throw discredit on this statement. There can be no question, however, that his object in coming here is a political one, and the duration of his stay at Tehran he informs me himself is indefinite.

The conclusion at which I have arrived as to the visit of General Franchini is that the Russian Government are awaiting the development of events before deciding as to the expediency of urging Persia to side with them against Turkey, and that in the meanwhile they are obtaining through this officer full information as to the actual condition of the Persian troops, the war material they possess and their value as allies. While the Persians, whose national vanity is flattered by the desire evinced by Russia to seek their alliance, are not unwilling to play into this view, and are, therefore, endeavouring to show to the best advantage their troops, of which they profess to be able to put 40,000 in the field, with the object of inciting Russia to offer the most favourable terms for their co-operation without committing themselves to their acceptance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

No. 131.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 8.*)

(No. 102.) *Tehran, July 4, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE prolonged stay of General Franchini here having given rise to much speculation, and the opinion having become general that the Persian Government was becoming involved in a manner which might seriously affect the neutrality of this country, I thought it advisable to seek an audience of the Shah in order to ascertain as far as possible from His Majesty personally, his views and intentions with respect to the present war.

I was accordingly received by His Majesty in audience yesterday, when the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Secretary of Legation were present.

After explaining verbally to the Shah the observations which I had to offer on the subject of the declared neutrality of Persia, and the expediency in the interests of the country that that line of policy should not be abandoned, I gave to His Majesty a paper embodying the observations I had made, which I had prepared in Persian in order that their purport should not in any way be misunderstood. His Majesty read it attentively, and during the conversation which ensued, in which he appeared to take much interest, the following points were clearly and explicitly stated by him:—

He said he was under the impression that the British Government supposed him to be so much under the influence of Russia that he had little choice left but to adopt the policy which that Government might dictate, but this was altogether a mistake. He was not bound by any such obligation to Russia, but was free to act according to his own judgment as an independent Sovereign in the manner he considered best in the interests of his country, and that he would continue to maintain that position. His Majesty continued that up to the present time he had remained, and now was actually neutral, and that he could state confidentially to me that it was not only his sincere desire but his firm intention to observe a strict neutrality throughout this war.

It was not, however, to be expected, he added, that he should bind himself or give a formal pledge that under no circumstances would he depart from that policy, nor would he do so, as every independent Government must reserve to itself the right to shape its policy in accordance with its own interests as affected by further events.

I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the Memorandum above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure in No. 131.

Memorandum.

ON the declaration of war by Russia against Turkey, the Great Powers of Europe agreed to adopt neutrality, and Persia has been frequently and strongly recommended by England, in the unmistakeable interests of Persia, to adopt a similar course, which she has done. Her intention to observe neutrality has been communicated by me to Her Majesty's Government, and Lord Derby has instructed me to express to the Persian Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the peaceful assurances which they had given.

It had been reported previously to Her Majesty's Government that intrigues had been carried on at Tehran to involve Persia in differences with the Porte with the object of inducing her to take a part in the war between Russia and Turkey, and the advice which was then given by Lord Derby to the Persian Representative in London was to the effect that he could not imagine a more suicidal act than that which the Persian Government would commit if they allowed themselves to be drawn into war as an ally of Russia. By so doing they would forfeit any support or sympathy which they might otherwise expect from England. The question seemed to him not one merely of the future prosperity of Persia, but of its actual existence as an independent State.

The attention of His Majesty the Shah and of his Ministers cannot be too seriously directed to the soundness of these opinions, and as a wellwisher of the Shah and of his country, I would request that His Majesty should himself reflect deeply on the serious nature of the question before listening to any ideas which may have been, or may be, suggested to him, and that he will consider whether, for the sake of some trifling apparent advantage, the Persian Government should run the risk of placing themselves in a position from which they would find it difficult to extricate themselves, and which would ultimately compromise, if it did not prove fatal to, the independence of the country.

In the event of pressing overtures being made to Persia to side against Turkey, it is not to be supposed for a moment that the determination on her part to maintain strict neutrality could offer any cause of resentment; whereas, if any attempt by hostile movement or menacing attitude were made by Persia to profit by the present difficulties of the Porte, it would provoke a natural and reasonable feeling of resentment on the part of Turkey which might result in serious complications hereafter. While if the neutrality which has been declared by Persia is carried out loyally by her, and firmly enforced upon all her frontier authorities, she would thereby be entitled to a grateful recognition on the part of Turkey, and gain at the same time the sympathy of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 132.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 8.*)

(No. 103.) *Tehran, July 4, 1877.*

My Lord,

MR. ABBOTT having informed me by telegraph that a number of Koords of the Persian branch of the Soonnee Shekak tribe had crossed the frontier with the ostensible object of joining their brethren in Turkey in the Jehad, or religious war, against Russia, and had plundered several Christian villages and a convent in Turkish territory, I addressed the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs officially on the subject, and orders were sent by telegraph to Tabreez to investigate the matter, and restore the plundered property. It is not, in my opinion, likely, however, that any satisfactory measures will be adopted by the Persian authorities, as in his subsequent letter the Persian Minister explains, on information which has been transmitted to him from

Tabreez, that the Persian Koords who had taken a part in this act of pillage had been invited by the rest of the tribe (who are Turkish subjects) to join them, and that, while acting in concert with the latter, they had only followed the example of the Turkish Koords, who, while professing to fight against the Russians, were taking every opportunity to plunder, whenever they could, both Christians and Mahommedans.

I have the honour to inclose copies of the communications which have passed between the Persian Minister and myself on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 132.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

June 22, 1877.

(Confidential.)

I YESTEDAY evening communicated to your Highness a telegram which I had just received from Mr. Abbott, the Consul-General at Tabreez, in which he reports that several Christian villages in the Turkish district of Albakh, and a Christian convent in the same locality, had been plundered by Persian Koords of the Shekakee tribe.

I cannot conceal from your Highness the painful impression which the receipt of this intelligence will cause to Her Majesty's Government, and I, therefore, strongly urge that no time whatever should be lost in issuing such stringent and peremptory orders to the proper authority as may compel the perpetrators of this act, who had entered the Turkish territory in defiance of the orders given by the Persian Government, to restore the booty they have brought away with them.

The object of my suggestion in this matter is not only that justice should be done to the Christians who have suffered, but that, being furnished with a copy of the instructions issued by your Highness, I should be enabled to convey to Her Majesty's Government an assurance that similar acts will not be allowed again to occur.

Inclosure 2 in No. 132.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

June 24, 1877.

(Translation.)

I HAVE understood the contents of the confidential note addressed on the 22nd instant by his Excellency the British Minister, in which he announces with deep regret and concern the report received from Tabreez that the Persian Koords of the Shakakee tribe have plundered several Christian villages in the Turkish district of Albakh, as well as a Christian convent. His Excellency has also alluded to the painful impression which this news will produce on Her Majesty's Government. In reply I beg to state most respectfully that the Persian Government will never sanction any aggressive act on the part of the Persian frontier tribes which might cause further embarrassment to the Turkish Government, more especially at the present time when they are otherwise so fully employed. After a perusal, therefore, of the said note prompt and stringent orders were dispatched, both in writing and by telegraph, to the authorities of Azerbaijân, instructing them to lose no time in taking the most energetic measures in the affair, and if they (the said tribe) have been guilty of any such misdemeanor, to restore whatever property has been carried off by them, and to see that the friendly relations which ought to exist between neighbouring (Powers) are duly respected. A copy of the written order is herewith inclosed for his Excellency's further information, who will see exactly therefrom what stringent measures have been adopted.

But the Persian Ministers would feel glad, and at the same time it would increase their sense of gratitude for the good intentions which the British Government entertains towards the two Mohammedan Powers, if his Excellency, who has shown his regret and concern for the Turkish Government in the present case, although the perpetration of the alleged outrage as yet remains unproved, would also express a similar sense of regret and concern on behalf of the Persian Government, for in that case such deeds as the acts of plunder and murder as those committed by the Hirkee

tribe in the Persian district of Mergavar would not have taken place. The details of this aggression on the part of the Hirkee tribe are fully known to his Excellency. Again, the Turkish frontier authorities have recently given shelter to and protected Mohammed Pasha of the Jaff tribe, a Persian fugitive, and have even given him a government and made him a Kaimakam on the frontier, so that all the ill-disposed and mischievous characters and murderers who run away from this country take refuge with him, and, with his countenance, make various aggressions. His tribe also are constantly engaged in crossing into Persian territory and resorting to acts of plunder and bloodshed. Considering that the reports received from the frontier in this respect are so very full that it would be a trouble to his Excellency the British Minister to read them they have not been inclosed, but we have them at this office and will forward them whenever he may desire to see them. Would it not have been becoming in them (the Turkish authorities) not to give any appointment to Mohammed Pasha? and if they wished to confer a government upon him, would it not have been more in accordance with friendship to a neighbouring Power not to give him a government upon the frontier, which would cause so much injury to Persian territory and Persian subjects? and would it not be well for the British Government to give some serious advice to that of Turkey also? If his Excellency the British Minister were to know what the Persian people residing on that line of the frontier suffer through the evil deeds of Mohammed Pasha and to what miseries they are subjected, there is no doubt that feelings of humanity would induce the English Ministers to strongly urge the Ottoman Government to remove Mohammed Pasha from the frontier and give him another place at a distance, so that the Persian frontier and its inhabitants may not be exposed to further danger and loss of life.

Inclosure 3 in No. 132.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Deputy-Governor of Azerbaijan.

June 23, 1877.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to a statement made by his Excellency the British Minister and the letter addressed by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires to this Department, copy of which I inclose, the Shekakee (Persian) tribe have taken to committing outrages and aggressions upon Turkish territory, and having gone to Van, they began to pillage and kill at the Mahommedan villages, and thence proceeding to the places inhabited by Christians and a Christian church there, to which the Christian community had conveyed their property, they also plundered.

Your Excellency is fully aware of my dispositions and feelings, and that I always consider such savage proceedings towards any Government as criminal and to be absolutely avoided, but especially in the case of the Turkish frontiers, for they (the Turks) are at present in difficulties, and indeed at no time can I bear to hear of the occurrence of acts of the kind. The main point of my instructions with regard to Turkish questions has always been, and is still, to establish sound principles of safety and order, and I cannot think how it is that you have allowed such proceedings to occur. I have to instruct you to inquire into the affair immediately and promptly, and if it is true, you must certainly have all the plundered property restored, and those who are guilty punished, and put an entire stop to such a state of things, so that in future no person may have the audacity to commit any act of the kind. If the said tribe do not abandon these habits, I shall be compelled to remove them from that frontier to some other place.

You will certainly, after due inquiry, report the exact state of the case for my information, so that I may be enabled to send a reply to the said Legations.

Inclosure 4 in No. 132.

The Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

June 26, 1877.

(Translation.)

IN continuation of my note of the 24th instant written in reply (to your Excellency's of the 22nd) respecting the complaints made by the Turkish authorities of the Persian tribe of Shakkak and the alleged plunder of Christian villages and a church

by the said tribe in Turkish territory, now that authentic intelligence and reports on the subject have been received from Tabreez I have to state most respectfully that this Shakkak tribe in times gone by divided—one portion escaping to Turkish territory, and remaining there ever since; the others are still in Persia, their original home. Sheikh Obeidullah and the Turkish frontier authorities having recently tried to entice and invite the Kurds and nomad tribes of Persia by various means both secretly and openly to a holy war, amongst others they invited this Persian tribe of Shakkak, and succeeded in gaining over a number of them. After reaching the place to which they had been invited, and meeting the Shakkaks who had previously escaped to Turkish territory, and seeing the state of the other Kurdish tribes who had assembled for the holy war, and who were making raids in every direction for provisions, the Shakkak Koords of Persia (*i.e.*) those who had recently left Persia for the holy war also being ready for any turbulent acts, joined the others; and it seems that they made a raid upon two or three villages.

The plundering raids of the Koords who have assembled in Turkey for a holy war have reached such a pitch that, although the Turkish authorities and agents endeavour to put a stop to their marauding acts by sending them back, they have not succeeded, for the evil-disposed Koords, who were engaged at different places in doing mischief, have now collected together at one spot, and, seeing the present disturbed state of the Turkish Government and its want of power to put them down, they (the Koords) refuse to go and fight for fear they should be killed, but employ themselves by plundering and raiding without any hindrance.

Under such circumstances a special Agent has been despatched from Tabreez to bring back the Persian Shakkak Koords who were openly invited to Turkish territory on the plea of a holy war, but who are in reality engaged in unlawful acts with other Koords. Nothing has been or will be omitted for securing the tranquillity of the frontier. Your Excellency's sense of justice will, therefore, admit that the Persian frontier authorities have not hesitated nor delayed in displaying the friendly disposition of a neighbour towards the Turkish Government, although these few Shakkaks were invited and enticed away by themselves so as to join in the holy war, and did not (of themselves) leave Persian territory in a body with the intention of aggression and plunder.

No. 133.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 104.) *Tehran, July* 4, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a Memorandum, with its inclosures, which I have received from the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, complaining that Sheikh Obeidullah, at the head of a large force of Turkish Koords, had, after pillaging the town of Bayazid, crossed the frontier and plundered villages in the district of Kazlu Gul, carried off a Persian official, and killed some individuals on this side of the border.

The Persian Minister asks that the Turkish Government may be requested to make arrangements for the release of the officer captured, and for affording redress for the unlawful acts alleged to have been perpetrated by the Turkish Sheikh abovementioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WM. TAYLOUR THOMSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 133.

The Persian Minister of Foreign Affairs to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

June 30, 1877.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to a telegram received at this Department from Tabreez, copy of which is inclosed, for the information of his Excellency the British Minister, Sheikhs Obeidullah and Telleludeen, attended by a considerable number of Koords, who had assembled at Bayazid for the holy war, besides plundering the whole of the villages in that province, have plundered several merchants of Khoi, and having carried off an

officer, they have pillaged several villages in the district of Kazlu Gul, and killed several people, the Turkish authorities in no way hindering these acts.

As this Department sees the continuation of such proceedings to be at variance with the statements and advice which the British Government tenders for the steady neutrality of Persia, it is considered necessary to bring the circumstance before his Excellency the British Minister, and to request most respectfully of him to give the requisite advice to the Turkish authorities, so that a stop may be put to the present state of affairs, the Koords removed from the Persian frontier, the plundered property restored, with the captive, and arrangements made for the blood-money of those who have been killed, and thus enable the Persian Government, as it strongly desires, to remain firm in its neutrality.

There is no doubt that his Excellency will, as a well-wisher, use his good offices in arranging this affair.

Inclosure 2 in No. 133.

The Deputy Governor of Azerbaijan to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *June* 29, 1877.

I HAVE just received a letter from Pasha Khan, dated the 22nd instant. He writes that Sheikhs Jellaludeen and Obeidullah joined at Bayazid and attacked the Russian troops, killing some and taking some prisoners; the remnant fled to Ak Serai, which place is besieged. They (the Koords) have pillaged and destroyed the town of Bayazid and its neighbourhood, robbing several merchants of Khoi who were in the town. The whole of the Koordish horsemen are at present at Agri Chai, and the regular (Turkish?) troops at Saivaj. They (the Koords) have turned out the guard placed by Pasha Khan at Kazlu Gul and have captured Imad Sultan and carried him off. They have also killed several people and plundered some of the villages of Kazlu Gul. What am I to do?

Under such circumstances, what is the use of having a camp at Salmas? If the Turkish Legation will put a stop to this state of affairs and telegraph to Ahhmad Kayek Pasha to prevent such savage deeds on the frontier, all well and good, or else let it give permission for us to move our camp to the frontier, in which case the Turkish Government ought not to conceive certain (unfounded) suspicions (as regards us).

No. 134.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 8.)

(No. 12.) *Tabreez, July* 11, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of a despatch and its inclosure addressed by me to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, giving some further particulars of the devastation of the Turkish district of Elbagh by Persian Koords.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 134.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Sir, *Tabreez, July* 10, 1877.

WITH reference to a previous despatch, I have the honour to report that the Diocesan of the Armenian Convent of St. Bartholomew has arrived at this place from Selmas. He recently called upon me, and related the circumstances attending the pillage of that convent, and several Christian villages in the Turkish district of Elbagh, by Persian Koords.

It appears that eighteen of the villages thus plundered were inhabited by Armenians and the remainder by Nestorians; and that nine persons lost their lives during these occurrences.

The local authorities have dispatched two officials to the frontier to inquire into the present state of affairs. Kooly Khan, Acting Foreign Office Agent, has gone to Selmas, and Lutfullah Khan, Serkedar of the Shahsevend Suwarrees, has been instructed by the Ikbal-ul-Dowleh to proceed to Elbagh.

The Armenian refugees have been well received by their co-religionists at Selmas, who have administered to their wants as far as they were able to do so.

The Turkish Consul-General, Behdjet Effendi, has taken energetic measures to cope with the present difficulty, for the protection of the interests of the Christian subjects of the Porte, who have sustained heavy losses at the hands of these Persian Koords. He has telegraphed to the Porte, and to the Ottoman Legation at Tehran, a statement of what has occurred at Elbagh, and is in communication with the Persian authorities on that subject. He also furnished the Diocesan of the Convent at Elbagh with funds to telegraph to the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople the circumstances of the present case.

I would respectfully venture to point out the great importance of this question being amicably adjusted between the Persian and Turkish Governments. The present moment might also be an opportune one for impressing on both of those Governments the necessity of taking immediate measures for restraining the excesses of their Koordish subjects.

By Persia and the Porte adopting in common a course of action for the mutual protection of their frontiers, a better feeling might be established on both sides.

In connection with recent occurrences at Elbagh, I beg to inclose an extract of a letter addressed to me by Mr. Labaree of Noumiah.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 134.

Mr. Labaree to Consul Abbott.

Seir, June 28, 1877.

(Extract.)

I SINCERELY hope the prompt measures you have taken may arrest the evil that impends over the Christians in Koordistan.

The details of the devastation of Elbagh are distressing, though it is a cause for gratitude that so few lives were sacrificed. Yet there is reason to fear the losses the Koords are experiencing in their encounters with the Russians will cause them to seek revenge on their Christian neighbours.

We hear of Christian captives secreted in the Sonnee villages near us, and long to get them released, but have no way to do so.

No. 135.

Consul Abbott to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 10.)

Tabreez, July 27, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of a despatch and its inclosure which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Minister at Tehran, relating the circumstances under which the Armenian convent of St. Bartholomew and several Armenian villages were recently pillaged in Ottoman territory by Persian Koords of the Shekkak tribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 135.

Consul Abbott to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

Tabreez, June 26, 1877.

Sir,

I HAD the honour on the 21st instant to send your Excellency the following telegram:—

"Subsequent accounts confirm telegram of 19th instant. Hitherto Armenians principal sufferers. Shekkaks have sacked convent and several villages in Elbagh district, and bring in booty to Persia. Armenian refugees are seeking safety in Persia, especially at Selmas and neighbourhood."

In connection with the above, I beg to inclose herewith the translation of a petition addressed from Selmas by the Diocesan of the Convent of St. Bartholomew, to the Armenian clergy at this place, relating the circumstances under which that convent and twenty-four Armenian villages were recently pillaged in Ottoman territory by Persian Koords of the Shekkak tribe.

A repetition of such lawless acts would doubtless furnish Russia with a plausible pretext for urging upon the Persian authorities in Azerbaijan the necessity of sending a force to the frontier, and the formation of the camp now on the banks of the Aji Tchai shows that Persia is, at any rate, making a military display here. She is nevertheless vacillating between a desire not to appear stubborn in the eyes of Russia and certain misgivings as to the consequences which a warlike policy on her part might entail.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 135.

Petition of Father Eliazar, Abbot of the Convent of St. Bartholomew, in the District of Elbagh, in Koordistan, to the Armenian Clergy at Tabreez.

(Translation.)

WHEREAS, according to the true doctrine of St. Paul, "if one member of the body be suffering all the members suffer with it;" and in writing thus to you of the great calamity which has befallen the Armenians inhabiting the Province of Elbagh on the 28th May (o.s.), I crave your sympathies, that you may assist us and any of our Armenian nation, wherever they may be under a similar predicament, even without sparing your lives.

You are already aware of the war now going on between the Russians and the Turks. On account of which, Sheikh Obeidoollah, Sheikh Nooreddin, and the Sheikh Moostapha, of Basikala, issued the following orders to Shekeftly Shekkak Ashiret Aly Khan and his son Topal Ahmet, who had both come as auxiliaries to the said Sheikh, for the purpose of fighting on the side of the Turks, with 500 horsemen:—

"Now that you, being Persian subjects, have come to assist us, we therefore repeat to you our orders, to go and plunder all the Armenian villages in the Province of Elbagh, including the Convent of St. Bartholomew, for the people thereof are allied to Russia."

At this vile order the Shekkaks rushed furiously, first into the convent, and then upon twenty-four Armenian villages, which they pillaged forthwith; not allowing, for decency's sake, the women and girls even to retain their under garments; and they committed many other indecent acts which I am ashamed to relate. Most of these denuded people have taken refuge in Persian territory, and some of them are kept in a state of starvation outside the tents of the Koords, who make them dance, and then laugh at their nakedness.

You must not, then, keep silence, nor delay in apprizing the Consuls at your place, and His Majesty the Shah, at Tehran, of these abominable acts, in order that some relief be afforded to the Armenians hereabouts in their present deplorable condition. For, after pillaging the convent, they even dared to remove the miraculous tomb of St. Bartholomew, and even to defile it. Alas! that I should have been an eye-witness of these acts of sacrilege, and yet survived them!

I implore you again, therefore, for succour to the Armenian nation, and leave it to your discretion to complain of these facts to the Consuls, or to his Holiness at Etshmiazin, as you may think proper, and send me an answer to Selmas, to the house of a certain devout Mekitar, where I am imprisoned, for they want to kill me.

I omitted to mention that they not only plundered the village in which the convent stood, but actually burned it to the ground.

Why should Persian subjects be allowed to commit these depredations, unless their acts be countenanced?

(Signed) ELIAZAR, *Bartapet Vasnanian, Diocesan of the Convent of St. Bartholomew.*

Selmas, Village of Pagadjouk,
June 5 (o. s.), 1877.

No. 136.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 37. Political.)

Trebizond, July 20, 1877.

My Lord,

MR. CONSULAR-AGENT DOULCET, of Samsoon, has reported a few months ago direct to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Constantinople, acts of robbery with open force perpetrated by a Circassian named Hadji Jussoof, who, together with two associates, was condemned to fifteen years hard labour, but was never captured to undergo his term of imprisonment.

I am now informed that Hadji Jussoof, at the head of a small band of five men, has of late become the terror of Samsoon and of its neighbourhood, to such an extent that no one dares to venture far from centres of population.

It would seem that, in order to compel him to cease his depredations, the Pasha of Samsoon had his house burnt down, and his wife and children taken as hostages.

On hearing of this measure, Hadji Jussoof wrote a letter to the Greek Archbishop, offering, for the release of his family, to depart, together with his companions, for the seat of the war, but rendering the said Archbishop and the Pasha responsible, in case of refusal, for the blood he would spill.

His proposal having been rejected by the Pasha, Hadji Jussoof murdered, within four or five days, twelve Mussulmans and Christians, and is waiting, it is said, the departure of Tsukess (Circassian) Ibrahim Pasha, who is there levying recruits among his countrymen to put Samsoon to fire and sword.

The inhabitants as well as the foreign authorities of Samsoon, without exception, are under the impression that the Governor of that town is either interested in Hadji Jussoof's nefarious acts or incapable of fulfilling his duties.

I cannot pronounce from personal knowledge on the character of that functionary, but the fact of his having adopted the severe measure mentioned above against Hadji Jussoof's family, rather tends to show his desire to put an end to the existing state of things, although, perhaps, the means recurred to may not meet with approval.

He has also dispatched zaptiehs against the brigands, but he is accused of searching for them far away while they are said to be in the immediate vicinity of the town.

The bare fact remains, however, that the populations at and round Samsoon are in danger, and that the means employed (and I am inclined to believe that all the fault lies in the police force not being sufficiently strong) are not adequate to restore public tranquillity.

On the 17th instant the inhabitants of that town transmitted for the fourth or fifth time, a telegram to the Porte begging that steamers should be sent to embark them with their families, as the authorities cannot protect their lives and their property.

I write by to-day's post to Mr. Consular-Agent Doulcet, that I report the details of the case to your Lordship as well as to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, but that he should in the meantime suggest to the Pasha of Samsoon (as I did in an identical case at Trebizond, and was approved by your Lordship) that a certain number of the inhabitants, Mussulmans as well as Christians, of the town and of the threatened villages, should be ordered to watch in turns during the night for the protection of their respective places.

It can hardly be supposed that, with a similar precaution, six individuals should endanger the safety of the whole population of a district.

At the same time, I advise Mr. Doulcet, in case of the Pasha refusing to comply with his suggestion, to telegraph immediately to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 137.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Canea, Crete, July 27, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 47 of the 21st instant, I had the honour to report to your Lordship the visit of the Vali Pasha of Crete to Vamos in Apocorona, the head-quarters of the Christian Pashalik of Sphakia. His Excellency had desired the attendance of the four Christian deputies of Sphakia, but those wary Chiefs, fearing treachery, had betaken themselves to their mountains. The Kaimakam of the sub-district of Sphakia told the Vali that he might perhaps succeed in apprehending the recalcitrant deputies, but that their friends would infallibly attempt a rescue, in which case he feared that the forces at his disposal would be overpowered. The Vali, who, in the person of the Mutessarif, Sartinski Pasha, had an able counsellor on the spot, finally renounced all attempts to use force, and the deputies, with two or three other leading Chiefs, are going about Sphakia in arms in defiance of the authorities. During the two days that Samih Pasha remained in Apocorona he conversed with some of the leading men there, who spoke to his Excellency with a singular mixture of frankness and guile. They plainly told the Pasha that it was true that they desired a change of government, but they disclaimed all idea of obtaining their wishes by force, protesting their helplessness, and assuring his Excellency that, even if some of their people might be anxious to rebel, they were quite powerless to do so. I cannot say whether his Excellency was imposed on by their protestations, but he prudently accepted them.

Rumours of a rising are obtaining more and more consistency every day, and it is now in everybody's mouth that the 1st proximo is the day fixed for setting the movement on foot. There are so many elements of uncertainty in these prognostications that it would be unwise to attach too much credence to them. An understanding has to be come to, not only between the different Chiefs, but between the latter and the Committees in Athens, whose counsels are disturbed by the conflicting influences of excitable patriots and a cautious Government. It is certain, however, that the advance of the Russians in Roumelia has had a marked effect in heightening the enthusiasm of the Cretans.

In consequence of this increase of excitement, I took upon myself three days ago to telegraph in cipher to Vice-Admiral Hornby, requesting him to allow Her Majesty's ship "Bittern" to remain here beyond the ten days fixed for her stay, which expired the day before yesterday, or that she might be relieved by another vessel. The Admiral yesterday replied to the effect that the "Bittern" could not remain, but that he would endeavour to replace her by another vessel, and the former accordingly left this morning for Pireus. I trust your Lordship will approve of my telegraphing direct to Admiral Hornby instead of to Her Majesty's Embassy, which I did in order that the Admiral might have the option of detaining the "Bittern" before her departure or sending another ship.

I beg, in conclusion, to express my opinion that, while the island remains in so restless a state, the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships-of-war in Suda Bay would contribute to the general tranquillity.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 138.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 49. Political.)

Canea, Crete, July 28, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 45 of the 17th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship the attack made by the inhabitants of two Mussulman villages near Rethymo on the Christian village of Adeles. The Consular Agent informs me that the authorities are endeavouring to hush the matter up, and that no one but the man who wounded the Christian has been arrested. This conduct presents a marked contrast with that which the authorities pursued when a zaptié was killed in a drunken brawl a few weeks ago by an inhabitant of the Christian village of Galata, near this town. The village was immediately occupied by a company of regular troops, and twenty-two

of the inhabitants were thrown into prison, where they were detained in some instances nearly a month; one of them died in confinement, and two are in prison yet. All this time it was perfectly well known to every one that the guilty man, named Zinaki, had fled to Sphakia, where he is now at large.

I am inclined to believe from the conduct of the Mussulmans of Rethymo and its neighbourhood, that they are bent on driving the Christians to revolt, and my opinion is shared by many others who are acquainted with that part of the country. The Mussulmans of Rethymo, unlike those of Canea and Candia, are a poorer community than the Christians, to whom, moreover, they are largely in debt, their property being held as security, and were a disturbance to break out they might hope to reduce their Christian creditors to ruin. A further confirmation of this view has been furnished me by a telegram received yesterday from Mr. Consular Agent Trifilli, who informs me that some influential Mussulmans of that town are exciting their co-religionists to go into the country, in order to urge their brethren to bring their families into the town as if in apprehension of danger. I thought it my duty to talk to Samih Pasha about these matters, and his Excellency tells me that he has sent for the ringleader of the pestilent clique mentioned by the Consular Agent, who are all either members of the Administrative Council or judges of the Tribunals, and that it is his intention to banish him to Constantinople. As for the rest, his Excellency promises to keep a vigilant eye upon them.

I regret to have to add that another disgraceful case of rape has been committed in that district by a Mussulman youth on a Christian girl of the tender age of four years. The guilty man has been arrested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 139.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Serajevo, August 8, 1877.*

ISMET PASHA, after two and a-half (hours') fight, occupied Cernipotok on Saturday. Estimated insurgent loss, 100 killed, 200 wounded; Turkish loss, 6 killed, 10 wounded, 11 missing. Turks took 2 cannon, 1,000 rifles, 67 boxes of ammunition, provisions, &c. In the course of the combat, the Turks were obliged to occupy the summit of some hills on Austrian territory. Despotovich, with about 3,000 insurgents, fled over the frontier towards village of Drenovac. Fight witnessed by Austrian troops and inhabitants from two villages near the frontier. Ismet Pasha has requested Generals Rodich and Mollinari to have insurgents disarmed.

No. 140.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic) *Odessa, August 8, 1877.*

THE two circular ironclads and "Vladimir" left this morning at 10, supposed for Sulina, to seek and engage the Turkish fleet. Others will join from Nicholaieff and Sebastopol.

No. 141.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 338.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 8, 1877, 2·35 P.M.*

MR. WHITE telegraphs yesterday that Servia is making preparations to attack Turkey. As peace was made by the Porte with Servia chiefly on the advice and pressure of Her Majesty's Government, could they not now exert their influence to prevent her using the advantages she obtained through them to the detriment of Turkey? It appears to me that we ought to do so in justice to Turkey. There is an impression here, as in Belgrade, that Russia has induced Austria to connive at the conduct of Servia. Should Servians cross the frontiers, the position of the Turkish army at Plevna would be seriously compromised.

No. 142.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(No. 339.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 8, 1877, 7 P.M.*

PORTE informs me that the Russians were defeated yesterday at Lofteha.

No. 143.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 8, 1877, 4 P.M.*

IN Servian official circles it is denied that the full number of men stated in my telegram of yesterday will be under arms at once. The measure is called a preparatory one, and it is explained that successive bodies of militia will do guard on the frontier between this and September 2, their number not exceeding a few thousands at a time. Time will show what truth there is in this assertion.

I am assured that the Russians are about to alter their entire plan of military operations, and that their staff are urging the Emperor Alexander to allow them to disregard political considerations and be guided by purely military ones in future, making use of Servia as well as Roumania in this war.

I sent to Constantinople.

No. 144.

Mr. Taylour Thomson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, August 8, 1877, 5·5 P.M.*

CERTAIN Merve Chiefs recently arrived in Meshed with Persian Agent lately employed at Merve have tendered allegiance of their tribe to Persia, offering to hoist Persian flag, and prevent future incursions. Persian Government say these are not principal Chiefs, and that engagement by them is not to be relied on; but they have authorized further negotiations with the Chiefs in Merve.

Communicated to Viceroy of India.

No. 145.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 270.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 8, 1877.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 293, Most Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, narrating a conversation you had had with the President of the Council, on the relations of Italy with the Austrian Empire, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the advice given by you to M. Depretis on the occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 146.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 271.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 8, 1877.*

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that the observations addressed by you to MM. Melegari and Depretis, as reported in your despatches Nos. 291 and 295, Confi-

dential, of the 30th and 31st ultimo, in reply to their inquiries relative to the rumours of an occupation by British troops of Gallipoli, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 147.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 175. Confidential.)
Athens, August 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that it has been decided to call out the men forming the Second Reserve of the Greek army, in addition to those of the First Reserve, and to mobilize the National Guard, in order that the army may be sent to the frontier.

No force which can now be collected can be formidable either by its numbers or by its efficiency.

It is evident, however, that the Hellenic Government have determined to adopt an adventurous policy, and that they are making preparations for the occupation of Thessaly and Epirus, in the event of Bosnia being occupied by Austrian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 148.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 181. Most Confidential.)
Athens, August 2, 1877.

My Lord,

WHEN I called upon M. Tricoupi the day before yesterday, he informed me that the Hellenic Government had decided upon calling out the Second Army Reserves, and upon mobilizing the National Guard, in order that as large a force of the regular army as possible might be sent to the frontier.

Upon inquiring into the cause of such an evidently aggressive measure, I gathered from M. Tricoupi that the reported mobilization of a portion of the Austro-Hungarian army appeared to portend the approaching occupation of Bosnia by Austria-Hungary, and that in that case it would be necessary for Greece to occupy Thessaly and Epirus, with a view to be placed in the permanent possession of those provinces at the conclusion of peace. He even imparted to me, confidentially, that he believed that there was an understanding, if not a Convention, between Austria-Hungary and Russia, which included the acquisition of those two provinces by Greece, and their preliminary occupation by a Greek force; and he hinted that the former Power was ready to do more for Greece than Great Britain would undertake to do.

I warned M. Tricoupi, in strong terms, of the dangers which were likely to ensue from the gratuitous adoption of such an adventurous policy, reminding him that the independence and integrity of Greece were guaranteed by Treaty and were not mentioned by any Power. I said that the movement of troops and of arms towards the frontier could only be directed against Turkey, that the Hellenic Government could not expect her either to refrain from taking offence at such a menacing proceeding, or to wait until the Greek preparations for an invasion were completed, and that I should not be surprised to hear at any time that Photiades Bey had been recalled, and that an Ottoman squadron was on its way to blockade the principal ports of Greece.

I do not suppose that the Hellenic Government contemplate commencing the invasion of Thessaly and Epirus until an insurrection breaks out in those provinces, or unless Austria-Hungary occupies Bosnia, when it would be considered, in the event of the continued advance of the Russian armies, that the partition of European Turkey had become inevitable, and that, whatever injury might be inflicted upon Greek ports by the Turkish fleet, few or no troops would be left to oppose the Greek army upon the Turkish frontier. It is probably further calculated that peace would shortly afterwards be imposed upon Turkey, and that Europe would be obliged to recognize

any such accomplished facts as the occupation of the Hellenic provinces and their annexation to Greece.

M. Tricoupi argued that Greece would fail in her duty to the Hellenic race if she did not strike a blow for her enslaved kinsfolk, when so apparently propitious an opportunity for their liberation was likely to arise.

From what I have stated in a recent despatch, it will have been seen that Greece is totally unprepared for a war in which any resistance can be opposed to her. The First Reserves lately called out amounted nominally to 10,000 men; but I understand that scarcely 3,000 have as yet been forthcoming; and in the case of the Second Reserves and of the National Guard, the proportions will probably be still less.

It is, therefore, not easy to foresee the early formation of anything like an efficient Greek army; and the Government would no doubt be painfully surprized and aggrieved if the Porte should call them prematurely to account for their present hostile preparations.

I do not believe that any of the new rifles, nor of the Krupp batteries, have as yet arrived from Europe; and it will take some time to instruct the army in the use of them.

The fact is, that the Government are allowing themselves to be overawed by the increasing importunities and impatience of the different revolutionary committees, although the nation in general has no greater desire than to be left in peace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 149.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 9.)

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 9, 1877.

I HAVE seen American missionaries who escaped from Eski-Zagra. They state that Russians entered place accompanied by numbers of Bulgarians from neighbouring villages, whom they armed and allowed to pillage and slaughter Mahommedans whom they had disarmed. A good many Mussulman women amongst them were shot by Russians themselves. After they had been driven out the Mussulmans retaliated with great severity upon the Bulgarians, but although many men were killed, the women and children were protected and brought to Adrianople under Turkish escort. The town, formerly a flourishing place of about 25,000 inhabitants, has been almost destroyed and is now deserted, as are the surrounding districts. American missionaries admit Bulgarian outrages in neighbouring villages. They praise conduct of Turkish authorities.

Captain Fife, in report sent home, describes Russian and Bulgarian atrocities on Mahommedan women and children, of which he had seen proofs, and says that Suleiman Pasha had shot sixteen soldiers and beaten a very large number who had plundered, and was doing his utmost to repress excesses.

No. 150.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 109.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 9, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 815 of the 21st ultimo, forwarding copy of Mr. Consul Blunt's report of his proceedings at Kyzanlik, and I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Blunt my approval of his conduct.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 151

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 411.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1877.*

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 846 of the 26th ultimo has been received, and I have to state to you that the Memorandum in which you called the attention of the Porte to the excesses committed by Circassians and other marauders in the Provinces of Amasia and Kharpoot is approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 152.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 412.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1877.*

Sir,

YOUR despatch No. 847 of the 27th ultimo has been received, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the steps which you have taken to warn the Porte of the danger of sanctioning the publication of exaggerated accounts of Russian and Bulgarian cruelties upon the Muhommedan population.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 153.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August 9, 1877, 10 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, reporting a conversation with Baron Orczy as to the intentions of Servia, I should wish you to inquire of Count Andrassy whether the Austrian Government propose to take any steps to deter the Servian Government from resuming hostilities against Turkey, and what the attitude of Austria would be if such an event were to take place.

No. 154.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 69. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, July 27, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that on the 21st instant Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte telegraphed to me to inquire if I was aware of any military preparations being made by the Austrians on the Dalmatian frontier for entering Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I replied to his Excellency that I did not think any preparations were being made with the view to a proximate occupation of this country. I am informed, however, that several battalions of infantry are now stationed at Sinj, and it is said that large contracts for meat have been made there by the military authorities. If, however, the Governor-General of Bosnia was correct in stating that the Porte had come to an arrangement with the Austro-Hungarian Government for the suppression of the insurrection in this province, as reported in my despatch, Political, No. 68, of the 21st instant, the assembling of troops at Sinj is satisfactorily accounted for.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 155.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 70. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 27, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Captain Milenkovic, Austrian Staff Officer, has been attached to the Austro-Hungarian Consulate-General of this town as Vice-Consul, and arrived here on the 25th instant. Captain Milenkovic, who is already acquainted with this province, held until lately a Staff appointment at Ragusa.

About ten days ago an Austrian courier arrived here by way of Brood and returned by way of Travnik, Banialuka, and Gradishka. The Austrian Consul-General here states that he brought him 5,000 ducats, as owing to the unsettled state of the country it was considered too great a risk to entrust money to the ordinary Consular Kavass who carries the post.

With reference to my despatch, Political, No. 66, of the 20th instant, I have also the honour to inform your Lordship that Sali Zeki Pasha has been promoted to the rank of Ferik or Major-General, and passed through Bosna-Serai on the 23rd instant, on his way to Mostar, to assume the command of the troops in the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 156.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 71. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, July 27, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper, according to instructions received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, made a detour, on his way to Bosna-Serai, from Sissek to Topusko, to have an interview with General Mollinary, and also from Sissek to Kostainitza and Dvor on the Una.

Mr. Cooper, during this hurried journey, did naturally not gather any further information of interest than that which I have already communicated to your Lordship as the result of my late journey in the same direction. He states that he found Austrian troops quartered at Kostainitza, Divusha, and Dvor, but no pickets out along the river. On the Turkish side of the stream he noticed a series of guard-houses, each held by about half-a-dozen men, who, from their varied costume, he supposes to have been soldiers of the "Mustahfiz," or National Guard. He was told both at Kostainitza and Dvor that Bosnians continually pass to and fro across the frontier in search of work, but that no refugees any longer came over. Along the Save Austrian troops were also quartered in the larger villages, and police patrols were occasionally to be seen on the banks. The Turkish guard-houses were at greater distances apart than on the Una, but were more strongly garrisoned, and below Gradishka appeared to be held by regular troops.

Mr. Cooper also states he neither saw any traces nor heard any mention of the fight reported in the newspapers to have recently taken place near Kobash.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 157.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 10.)

(No. 75.)

Sir, *Buda-Pest, August 3, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 74 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that M. Tisza has commenced replying to the deputations which wait upon him with the resolutions passed at the various meetings respecting the Russo-Turkish war. These replies are shorter versions of the one given yesterday to M. Francis Pulszky as President of the Buda-Pest meeting.

In this answer M. Tisza said the Government shared in the humane and patriotic feelings which prompted the petition from the meeting, but no remedy could be applied to the cruelties as long as the war lasted, neither could any one State soever act as unbidden judge between belligerents. He hoped, however, that soon Europe would be able to use her influence for peace and put an end to the horrors. The Government would ever consider its duty to be to guard the interests of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, and thus also those of Hungary, and its only aim under all eventualities of the future will be at the fitting time to maintain them uninjured, however difficult the task may be, and however much the Government hoped that the nation would be spared any sacrifice of blood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 158.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 10.)

(No. 78.) *Buda-Pest, August 4, 1877.*

Sir,

MUCH satisfaction is expressed here that, at the meetings about to take place at Lemberg, which represents the Ruthenian element, and Cracow, which represents the Polish element in Galicia, the resolutions of the Buda-Pesth meeting on the Russian cruelties, and an anti-Russian policy, are to be adopted, and that those meetings are looked upon as an important set-off to the announced meeting at Agram.

Some scores of meetings have taken place, or are taking place, in Hungary and Transylvania, to show the feeling of the country, and at these the Buda-Pesth resolutions are adopted usually without any alteration, but sometimes with an additional resolution against an occupation of Bosnia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 159.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 10.)

(No. 80.) *Buda-Pest, August 5, 1877.*

Sir,

ACCORDING to information furnished by correspondents to the Hungarian press, it would seem that the Bulgarians for the most part will not arm themselves to help the Russians in their liberation, and that the Russians have been unpleasantly undeceived on this point.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 160.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10.)

Vienna, August 9, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to copies of Mr. White's telegrams forwarded to me to-day from the Foreign Office, the Servian Agent renewed his assurances yesterday that Servia is only taking precautions for defence on her frontier in consequence of the Turkish frontier guards being now composed entirely of irregulars.

I am told, however, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, that there is reason to fear Servian Government think of sending a force into Turkey to co-operate with the corps of Roumanians in a combined movement against Plevna.

No. 161.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10.)

(No. 342.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 9, 1877, 10·30 P.M.*

I HAVE received a quantity of evidence from Consul Blunt which leaves no doubt as to shocking atrocities committed by Russians and Bulgarians on Mahommedan population of district on this side of Balkans invaded by former. It will be sent home immediately. Mussulmans are retaliating, and loss of life and devastation are great. Adrianople filled with fugitives, amongst them a number of wounded women and children in the greatest misery and in want of everything. Many more are expected. Surgeons and necessaries are urgently required. Would any of the Societies for the Sick and Wounded in War do anything for these fugitives?

No. 162.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10, at noon.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, August 10, 1877, 10·59 A.M.*

ALL 40th passed. Reserve or depôt battalions coming daily latterly will not, I believe, exceed 15,000. Additional force of infantry, therefore, 27,000; all that arm on this side of Caucasus, by the middle of this month, will be about 78,000.

No. 163.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 10, 1877, 12·15 P.M.*

TWO divisions of the Roumanian army are now on the south side of the Danube, and occupy positions covering Nicopolis.

Prince Charles is at Islaz, and it is reported that he will take the command should the Roumanian force in Bulgaria be further augmented.

No. 164.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August 10, 1877, 6·10 P.M.*

A TELEGRAM from the Porte to Musurus Pasha, dated 6th instant, respecting the burning and killing of Mussulman men, women, and children of the village of Hersté, states that "the English Military Attaché himself verified all these horrors." Is there any foundation for this statement?

No. 166.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 94. Political.) *Scutari, July 25, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the translation of a telegram addressed to me from Podgoritza by the Turkish Commander-in-chief, Ali Saib Pasha, and by which his Excellency informs me of the barbarous treatment of some Albanian children who were surprised by some Montenegrins whilst fishing near Podgoritza.

I have requested Ali Saib Pasha to furnish me, if possible, with a medical report concerning the mutilated and wounded children, and I have, in the meantime, written to the Prince of Montenegro's Secretary in a private manner, with the hope that, if the occurrence has not been misrepresented, Prince Nicholas will take such steps as his well-known humanity will dictate to him, so as to keep under more complete control the barbarous tendencies of his people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 166.

Ali Saib Pasha to Consul Kirby Green.

(Translation.) *Podgoritza, July 23, 1877.*

(Telegraphic.)

BY a police report which has been presented to me it results that seven children, the eldest of them being ten years old, belonging to the village of Guchik (Golubovce?), in the Caza of Podgoritza, whilst they were fishing, were caught by the Montenegrins, who mutilated one of these children by cutting off its ears and nose; another had its arm broken; and a third saved itself by taking flight towards its parents. The fate of the remaining four of these children is unknown. The atrocities committed by the Montenegrins on these innocent children not only proves their ferocious conduct, but will also produce a very strong impression on our villagers, and which will result in grievous consequences.

It has been with great regret that I have had to report this occurrence in the proper quarter, and I have also hastened to inform your Consulate of it.

No. 167.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 95. Political.) *Scutari, July 31, 1877.*

My Lord,

ENCOUNTERS between the Montenegrins and Turks are almost of daily occurrence on the frontiers, but appears to have no other object or result than the destruction of life.

On the 20th, 21st, and 22nd instant there were skirmishes on the Summan, above Antivari, when one Turk was killed and two wounded.

On the 27th some of the Bashi-Bazouks stationed at Dinoshi, below Medun, proceeded with some cattle, during the night, to the vicinity of Fundina, where they hid themselves, allowing the cattle to browse as if they had strayed to the place. At daylight about a dozen Montenegrins, seeing the cattle, came to seize them, and all, with the exception of one, were killed by the irregulars in ambush. Again, a few days before, four Bashi-Bazouks, bringing several horse-loads of bread to Dinoshi from Podgoritza, were waylaid and killed by Montenegrins.

Yesterday the irregulars from Podgoritza, supported by two battalions, one of Nizams and the other of Mustahfiz, marched to the village of Farmaki, where they were met by three battalions of Montenegrins. A battle ensued which lasted for six hours, and resulted in a loss of about thirty killed and wounded on the side of the assailants, and, the Turks say, of a hundred Montenegrins killed.

The Montenegrins have assembled in considerable strength around Nichsich, and have, within the last ten days, taken two of the small block-houses in the immediate

vicinity of the town. Owing to these successes hopes are arising that Nichsich itself may ultimately surrender; but, in the opinion of even the Russian and Austrian military men now in Montenegro, this is not at all probable, as the Montenegrin artillery is not of a calibre to injure the town materially.

From the foregoing list of military occurrences your Lordship will be enabled to observe that the war with Montenegro has already degenerated into a conflict having hardly any other result than the effusion of blood.

The idea of the Turkish commanders that their petty raids will draw off some of the forces surrounding Nichsich can hardly be serious, and probably Ali Saib Pasha, who has again returned here from Podgoritza, is only seeking excuses for keeping his name before his superiors at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 168.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 183.)

My Lord, *Athens, August 3, 1877.*

HAVING made inquiries of M. Tricoupi respecting the recent visit of the Greek Consul-General in Servia to Craguilevatz, I am assured that the object of the visit was to learn the present views and intentions of Prince Milan and of the Servian Government, and that no negotiations are being carried on between Greece and Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 169.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 185. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, August 4, 1877.*

AS M. Tricoupi had lately hinted to me that a complete understanding, if not a Convention, existed between Austria-Hungary and Russia, in which the eventual annexation of Thessaly and Epirus to Greece was contemplated, I took an opportunity of mentioning yesterday to Count Dubsky that such an impression prevailed here in some quarters.

Count Dubsky assured me at once that he did not believe that the Austro-Hungarian and Russian Governments had been able to establish an understanding with respect to their own more immediate interests in the Eastern question, and that it was still less likely that they should have come to any arrangement with a view to the cession of the above provinces to Greece.

When I afterwards saw M. Tricoupi and told him that the Austo-Hungarian Minister disbelieved in the existence of such an understanding as that to which he alluded, he answered mysteriously that he trusted to the correctness of his own information, although it might not have been imparted to Count Dubsky.

M. Tricoupi seems even to believe that there is a double understanding between Austria-Hungary and Russia, providing for the partition of European Turkey, as well as for a peace without such partition.

The King, moreover, happened to tell me, in the course of a long conversation which I had the honour to have with His Majesty on Wednesday, that he was convinced that the Emperor of Austria-Hungary would never consent to act in opposition to the wishes of the Emperor of Russia, the attachment between the two Emperors being of the most sincere and cordial character.

From the language which Count Dubsky has held to me since his arrival, he appears to share the views which I have from time to time expressed to your Lordship respecting the importance of supporting and strengthening the Hellenic element, as the only barrier which can be made available for resisting the ambitious encroachments

of Slavism towards the Mediterranean; and he, therefore, looks forward to the eventual aggrandisement of Greece as an object of the highest European interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 170.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 186.) *Athens, August 4, 1877.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 175 of the 1st instant, I learnt yesterday from M. Tricoupi that it was not intended to mobilize the whole of the National Guards throughout Greece, but only those in the neighbourhood of the frontier, and, perhaps, those belonging to Athens, in order to dispense with the greater part of the present garrison.

The mobilization upon the frontier had, he said, already commenced.

According to the last Returns published, some 4,800 men out of the 10,000 belonging to the first reserve had come forward.

The Decree calling out the men of the second reserve has not yet been promulgated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 171.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 187. Confidential.) *Athens, August 4, 1877.*
My Lord,

I AM confidentially informed that the recent decision to adopt a more active and adventurous policy gave rise to serious discussions and dissensions in the Greek Cabinet, and that M. Deligeorges and one of the other Ministers, who were opposed to the decision adopted, determined to resign office.

The King came into town from his country place on Wednesday, and it is supposed that the Ministerial crisis has been averted or postponed by His Majesty's influence and mediation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 172.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 188. Confidential.) *Athens, August 4, 1877.*
My Lord,

I MET Photiades Bey and had some conversation with him at the door of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs yesterday.

He did not appear to be in any unusual alarm respecting the designs or the military preparations of the Hellenic Government; but he told me that he had just represented to M. Tricoupi that the formation of a camp and the concentration of troops at Lamia, which is in the immediate neighbourhood of the frontier, was an unfortunate measure, and calculated to give offence to the Ottoman Government.

The explanations which he received were to the effect that the disturbed state of the frontier required reinforcements of troops to be sent there; that it was merely an internal measure, and not dictated by any hostile feeling towards Turkey; and that Lamia had been chosen as being for various reasons the most convenient place in that part of Greece for the formation of a camp.

Photiades Bey had official telegrams in his pocket containing the news of several important Turkish victories, and he had persuaded himself that the news would exercise a sobering influence upon public feeling here and upon the policy of the Hellenic Government.

As he had some days before spoken to me of the reported negotiation of a Convention between Servia and Greece, I asked him whether he had received any confirmation of the report, and gathered from his answer that he did not believe there could be any foundation for it under present circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 173.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, July 28, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the copy of my despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte of this day's date, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Vice-Consul Jago to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Damascus, July 28, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Omer Fenzi Pasha, the newly-appointed Governor-General of Syria, arrived in this city and entered upon his duties on the 23rd instant.

The Mustaphiz, or local militia, being now enrolled, are doing garrison duty in the city, the regular troops remaining here comprising about 400 men, infantry of the line.

The whole of the regular cavalry left by land for the seat of war, viâ Aleppo, a fortnight since, while 700 irregular cavalry, enrolled by public subscription in this district, started for Beyrout for embarkation during the past week. This latter force leaves much to be desired both in equipment and in military bearing, and may be considered as worth little for actual service.

Great pressure continues to be applied in the agricultural districts in the matter of taxation and forced loans, and much land is passing out of cultivation in consequence.

With the exception of the villages to the east of Damascus, and which are subjected to Bedouin raids, the city of Damascus and the surrounding districts continue to enjoy perfect tranquillity.

The conduct of the Moslem inhabitants towards their Christian and Jewish brethren is most exemplary, and has produced a marked cessation of those fears which so much exercised the latter on the outbreak of the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 174.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 11.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Vienna, August 10, 1877, 4:30 P.M.*

IN answer to your Lordship's inquiry of yesterday as to the intentions of Austria in the event of a resumption of hostilities by Servia, Count Andrassy says that he has already fully explained to Her Majesty's Government why he could neither interfere with Roumania nor Servia if they engaged in hostilities with Turkey as long as they do not directly or indirectly injure the interests of Austria; therefore if Servia sends troops across her eastern frontier Austria will not interfere, but if Servian troops enter Bosnia, Austria will certainly dispatch a force thither, and possibly also into Servia; but as the Servian Government must know this, he believes they are not likely to give umbrage to Austria by exciting disturbances on her frontier.

He understands the preparations the Principality is making for war cannot be

completed before September, when the Government will probably think it prudent to maintain peace unless the Turks have suffered serious defeats.

He does not believe that Russia has asked for Servian co-operation, but he is told that the Russian Government cannot prevent Servia resuming hostilities if she thinks it expedient to do so.

As he asked me to leave a Memorandum of your inquiry with him, he probably intends to send further explanations of his views to Count Beust.

He asked me when he might hope to receive the despatch which your Lordship has informed Count Beust will be sent me.

He will defer mobilization until he can judge better as to the prospects of conclusion of the war, that he may not have to maintain 60,000 men unnecessarily during the winter.

No. 175.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August* 10, 1877, 7·5 P.M.
(Confidential.)

IT is officially recognized at Russian head-quarters that the trans-Balkan campaign must be abandoned for this year.

The attempt will be made to sweep the Turkish forces out of Bulgaria, and winter in that province.

The sanatory condition of the Russian army is extremely critical.

No. 176.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 343.) *Constantinople, August* 11, 1877, 9 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT is true that Captain Fife verified horrors committed upon Mussulman men, women, and children at Heraic, or Khevista, and elsewhere. His despatches on the subject have been sent home.

No. 177.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 11.)

(No. 344.) *Constantinople, August* 11, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

CAPTAIN McCALMONT telegraphs that Turkish right wing in Armenia crossed Russian frontier and drove Russian force, consisting of two battalions infantry and two regiments cavalry, back to Igdyr, with considerable loss.

No. 178.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 12.)

(No. 345.) *Constantinople, August* 11, 1877, 7 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING from Consul Blunt, dated this day, 10·5 A.M.:—

"Vali received telegram this morning from Suleiman Pasha reporting that prisoners captured yesterday in reconnaissance near Tchainktchi village state that Russians have retired from Hain Boghaz defile to Tirnova."

No. 179.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 12.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, August* 12, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

IT is reported that General Gourko's force has been withdrawn from south of the Balkans.

The passes even will not be held for fear of being surrounded.

No. 180.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 101. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 24, 1877.

I HAD the honour to forward last night a telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to the following effect—

It is extremely difficult to ascertain with any accuracy the nature and extent of the military preparations going on in Servia. At Belgrade these consist in a fresh registration of all the men liable to the militia, and in sending waggons loaded with ammunition to some places on the frontier.

It is certain at any rate that the Servian exchequer is empty, and that the fighting power of this country is almost "nil;" at the worst they would have to be content with occupying certain conterminous districts situated in proximity to their frontier, and only then when the Turkish forces have been removed from thence, and no enemies will be found there any more.

Colonel Catardgi, who is employed as Servian Military Agent at the Emperor of Russia's headquarters, has been in Servia secretly last week.

This officer has returned to Roumania, and nothing has transpired as to the purpose of his visit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 181.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 108. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, July* 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Doscos, the Consul-General of Greece, has just left for Kragujevats, where the Prince of Servia and his Ministers are now staying.

As both Servia and the Hellenic Kingdom are making preparations for possible contingencies, it may be supposed that some secret negotiations are carried on between them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 182.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 109. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 3, 1877.

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship and to my despatch No. 108, Political, of the 31st of July, 1877, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Doscos, the Greek Consul-General, has returned from his visit to Kragujevats, and called upon me this afternoon.

M. Doscos assures me that his object in going to see Prince Milan and his Ministers was to ascertain for his Government, better than he could do at Belgrade, what they were doing in the way of preparing for a resumption of hostilities against the Porte, and he tells me he is satisfied now that they have no such intention for the present.

On the supposition that this explanation is correct, and I have as yet no reason to believe the contrary, there are two remarks which strike me in this proceeding.

Why does the Hellenic Government feel so much greater an interest in what Servia is likely to do than even the Governments of neighbouring States, such as Hungary for instance; and, secondly, why has there been so much secrecy about my Greek colleague's journey when its object was so very simple and the fact could not possibly be long disguised from their knowledge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 183.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 110. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August 4, 1877.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople sent me a telegram *en clair*, dated Therapia, July 25, but which did not reach me till the 27th ultimo, and which was as follows:—

"Marshall had better return to Belgrade. I will write explanations."

In the interval between his departure for Widdin and my receipt of the above telegram Mr. Marshall had been for a couple of days at Saitchar, in Servia, with my leave, owing to his having had an attack of Danube fever, and to the difficulties thrown in the way of his stay at Widdin by the Ottoman authorities; but he had gone back to Turkey when Mr. Layard's instructions reached me.

These followed him there, and he has left the place for good, and sent me a private letter (of which I inclose a copy) and also an interesting report, likewise inclosed.

The advantages which I anticipated from Lieutenant Marshall's stay at Widdin have not been realized for the public service to their full extent for the following reasons.

The Turkish authorities do not appear disposed to be communicative, and their prohibition of the use of cypher renders communications by foreign Agents there dilatory and unsatisfactory.

Moreover these authorities do not appear to possess reliable information; thus they assured Mr. Marshall on the 24th July that Nicopolis was still holding out, and that Osman Pasha was marching to relieve it, and the Governor only admitted later that it had submitted on the 27th July when that place had actually capitulated early on the 16th July, i.e., eleven days earlier.

Recent military events have, for the present, deprived Widdin of the importance it might have had as a centre of information. A small garrison has been left there, but Osman Pasha is making his way with his main force either towards Sistova or Tirnova; in either case Widdin will be too far off from the important operations, and may be ultimately either cut off from all communications or even invested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Vice-Consul Marshall to Consul-General White.

(Private.)
Dear Sir, *Zaicsar, July 26, 1877.*

MANY thanks for your letters received last night; I have up to this sent you one letter from Negotin, one telegram from Widin, three telegrams (one in cypher) from here, and one official despatch (in cypher) hence last Monday night. I am just going to send you another, to say that I think it worth while going back to Widin for a week, by which time I think I shall have gleaned all the information I should ever be able to pick up. This will also give you time to get me accredited at Nisch (where I hear there is a considerable force), or any other place you may think fit to send me to. I think my servant has stolen some of my things, so will not trust him anymore with letters. With your permission, I will therefore return here in a week's time, and

await further instructions. I am particularly anxious to verify a rough plan of Widin that I have managed to get.

As regards my late stay at Widin: I arrived early on Thursday morning, and after having to wait on all the Pashas, was kindly taken in by a German doctor, of the name of Busch. No notification of my coming arrival having been received from Constantinople, I was told I had better telegraph to our Ambassador at Constantinople, as there was a strict order to the effect that no stranger was to be allowed to stop in Widin without special permission from Constantinople. Wherever I went, I was followed by two zaptiehs, so you will see I could do nothing.

On the Saturday night I had a sharp attack of fever, which, however, went off after two days, thanks to quinine, all except a constant evacuation of mucus which I had for a week, probably from bad water.

No telegram having arrived by Friday, I should have had to leave that evening, if it had not been for M. Schultz, the Austrian Consul, who stuck to me like a brick. Thanks to him I held on till Saturday, when they told me I must leave at once or be placed under arrest. I tried to see the Civil Governor of Widin (Mutesarif Pasha), but he declined, simply sending a message by the Bimbashi, or Major, on duty, that I must go or be arrested. I informed the Bimbashi I preferred being arrested. I was consequently ordered into the officer's guard-room. After about three hours, I was sent for by the Governor, who said I had better go home, and start next morning. However I made him no promise.

Sunday they left me in peace, I think owing to Schultz's telling them I had fever; but on Monday I got a message that I should be sent off per "schub" (Austrian expression signifying expulsion by force under escort) next morning, unless I went on my own account. As I thought this latter proceeding would be rather too much of an indignity for Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, I was compelled to call again on the Governor, and inform him that I would go on my own account on Tuesday morning. When I called, he apologized for all the trouble he had given me, &c., and informed me that he had just received a telegram from the Turkish Ambassador in Vienna (I had telegraphed to Sir Andrew Buchanan to get me accredited by him) that he had telegraphed to inquire about me to Constantinople (which he had persistently declined to do before, saying it was not his business) and that I might await the reply. Next morning came your telegram calling me here, so I started as soon as I could. I do not think the Civil Governor was much to blame in what he did, as he had to carry out his orders. As regards the arrest, of course it was *infra dig.*, but taking everything into consideration I thought it best to pass it over, as I shall probably by this means have more opportunities given me for seeing the troops and works than if I had made an enemy of the Governor. Personally I consider Widin too far removed from the Russian line of advance for it to play an important part in this war. Such is also, I think, the opinion of the Turks. It would, I think, be mere waste of time for me to stay there long.

Yours very sincerely,
(Signed) L. MARSHALL.

P.S.—Turks at Widin seem only to tell their good news.

L. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Vice-Consul Marshall to Consul-General White.

Sir, *Zaicsar, July 26, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, on my arrival at Widin, I found every obstacle thrown in the way of my obtaining information, by reason of my being unfurnished with documents accrediting me from Constantinople. I was nevertheless able to gather the following information:—

The fortifications consist of—

(*a.*) The fortress, which is a strong masonry enceinte on the bastioned system, each bastion being hexagonal, i.e., having two short second flanks. The escarp has counterforts. Both escarp and counterscarp are revetted with stone. The ditch on the land side is at present dry and choked with rubbish. There is a covered way and an artificial glacis, which is mined. The revetment of the enceinte is what is termed a 'half' revetment; the dimensions are somewhat as follows:—

Cordon + 10′, ditch — 10′, crest of parapet + 18′, crest of glacis + 0′, width of main ditch 33 mètres opposite the centre of the curtains, much narrower at the bastions, where an assault would also, in several instances, be facilitated by a "fausse braye."

(*b.*) The outer lines, which are continuous, and flanked by high bastions. The profile of these earthworks is strong. The parapet has a command of about 12′. The unrevetted ditch would, if cleared out, form a considerable obstacle, and can be filled with water from the Peresit stream, which follows a tortuous course about half-a-mile in front of the lines. At either end of these lines, which surround the fortress in the form of a crescent, are new forts built last winter.

But for Kalafat, Widin would be very favourably situated for defence, as the besieger would find no commanding ground to establish his batteries on. The only exception to the above is on the road to Adlie, where there is some undulating ground about 2,000 yards from the outer lines.

The present armament of Widin consists of some 330 guns.

4 23-centim. Krupps.
20 15-centim. Krupps.
24 52-pounder breech-loaders.

The remainder are old iron guns of various calibre, and mortars. The four 23-centim. Krupps are mounted in Kum Kaleh, the new fort at the north extremity of the lines opposite Kalafat.

The present garrison consists of 12 battalions (about 7,000 men) and 2 or 3 squadrons of cavalry; there are hardly any field-guns. The phisique of the men is remarkably good, notwithstanding that they mostly belong to the 3rd and 4th Bans, and that Osman Pasha took the best regiments away with him. The men are fairly well clothed, and principally wear sandals. The infantry are armed with Martini's and Sniders, the cavalry with the Winchester carbine. Arms, bits, &c., are never cleaned.

There is one battalion at Adlie, and, I think, one at Florentin.

Widin has abundant stores of ammunition and provisions, for six months at least. The Bulgarian town is situated between the fortress and the outer lines, coming up to within about 300 yards of the covered way of the latter. The houses are built lightly, by order, so as to be readily demolished.

It appears to me that the defences would be greatly impaired, owing to following circumstances:—

1st. The present garrison is not sufficient to hold the outer lines.

2nd. Supposing the enemy to force the outer line, the *débris* of the Bulgarian town would greatly facilitate his further approach.

3rd. The streets inside the fortress are so narrow and tortuous as greatly to impair the defence.

The following dimensions will give some idea of the size of the place:—

N.B.—This is not a sketch, but only to show the extent of ground, 5,000 by 3,700 mètres the works cover.

The range of the Kalafat batteries is about 4,800 paces, and their practice is very poor. Out of 200 shells, apparently intended for the main magazine, only one splinter struck the building. Altogether only some forty houses are injured, including the steam flour-mill and Jewish school. Strange to say, nearly all the loss falls on the Jews. All the wealthier people have left the town, and the houses by the Danube are

deserted, as the Roumanians occupy the two islands opposite Widin, and keep up a dropping musketry fire.

Three shells came across in quick succession last Thursday, on the Commandant of the lower fort showing his head on the ramparts, but, with that exception, there has been no bombardment for upwards of a fortnight. Strange to say, the Roumanians on the islands allow Turkish soldiers to fetch water, &c., with impunity, and seem to reserve their fire for civilians.

A new steam flour-mill, with a sloping chimney, has been constructed under cover.

The Roumanians are reported to have 4,000 infantry and two squadrons at Kalafat.

Most of the troops left at Widin are encamped out of sight and range of the Kalafat guns.

Osman Pasha's troops left Widin indifferently provided with transport. He only had twenty pack animals instead of sixty per battalion; the remainder was made up by twenty carts with four or six horses, and 140 ox carts.

As regards the roads in these parts—

1st. In Servia, that from Milanovatz to Boza Palanka is terribly bad, and I hear that to Maidanpek is in a similar state. The communes have no money to repair last winter's damage. The road from Boza Palanka to Negotin and Radujevacz is very good. From Radujevacz to the mouth of the Timok there is only a cart track close to the Danube in parts, and sure to be impassable at other seasons. Thence to Widin a cart track over undulating cultivated hills; water scarce.

2nd. In Turkey, the metalled road from Widin to Adlie is 24 feet wide in its narrowest parts. The bridges look unsafe. Water is scarce. About half way there is a strong oval stone guard-house, with Machicouli gallery, occupied by mounted zaptiehs, whose horses live on the ground floor.

From Adlie to Zaiczar, in Servia, there is a cart track. On the Servian side, two days rain suffice to make it a perfect bog.

When the peasants apply for assistance to rebuild their ruined houses, the Servian authorities tell them to wait till the war is over; this, together with the drilling of the militia which goes on here incessantly, appears to me rather suspicious. In point of physique, the men do not come near the Turks, still they are decidedly an improvement on those whom I saw at Belgrade. They want drill and food. Servian militia armed with Austrian rifles converted to Peabody system; strange to say, part appear to be smooth-bores.

There are hardly any crops round Widin. Last autumn's corn and maize look well, and are nearly all cut and stored. Nothing was sown this spring.

Round Adlie, matters look rather better, also near the confluence of the Timok. Next to nothing sown round Zaitschar.

The only Bulgarians expected to rise live in the vicinity of Vraca; the whole population will, however, meet the Russians with incense, and bring food and information. The Bulgarians are, without exception, the most disgusting race I have ever come across. They appear to possess all the vices of the Turks, without any of their virtues. Their total want of education will render it particularly difficult to obtain any Russian Proclamations, should such exist, as they could only be distributed to the priests.

I do not consider Widdin a good place for obtaining information. The Pashas distrust even the Austrian Consul, who has been there for thirteen years. They seem to tell their good news, but keep their bad to themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MARSHALL.

Sir, *Zaiczar, July* 31.

I have the honour to inform you I left the above letter for Dr. Baker to forward under his official seal, but he has been detained, and only returns to-night. Since writing the above, I have been to Widin a second time. The latest news is, that 400 Cossacks having incited the Bulgarians about Lovatz to rise, the latter carried off some Turkish women and children, &c. This rising was successfully put down by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians. Nicopolis fell on the 27th, the Russians having cut off the water supply. The Turks are reported to have gone on five days without water, after which they had to surrender. Mutessarif Pasha, the Civil Governor, who informed me some days ago of the relief of Nicopolis by Osman Pasha,

must get very peculiar information. There was a rumour which still requires confirmation, that Osman Pasha beat the Russians between Plevna and Lovatz last Sunday, taking their camp.

I hear the Roumanians did not export any grain last year, when they had a splendid harvest. My informant, the Natschaliuk of this place, tells me he hears there is enough to subsist the Russian army for another year.

So far the Turks have behaved very well, not firing on Kalafat town even when provoked by the Roumanians firing on and killing some civilians; but I hear that should it occur again, there are 1,200 shells specially set apart for Kalafat.

Two battalions and three guns were sent off in haste from Widin to Florentin last Saturday afternoon, and I heard yesterday at Adlie, that four battalions more went yesterday afternoon. This latter, however, is not certain. The Roumanians on the islands have been firing much more of late; this, with the rapid movement to Florentin, looks as if the Roumanians intended to try a crossing, in order to bring back Osman Pasha. Izzet Pasha, the Commandant, has given me leave to accompany him in all engagements, but not to visit the fortress. I have not been able to obtain, or hear of any new Russian Proclamations, only the one that was published in the "Turquie" and the "Journal Bulgare de Constantinople."

The Widin authorities have at last received all necessary papers concerning me from Constantinople, and seem fairly friendly. Unfortunately, however, my repeated coming and going seems suspicious to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LIONEL MARSHALL.

P.S.—I hear reinforcements have been lately sent to Kalafat, which will increase the force there to near 10,000 men.

L. M.

No. 184.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 50. Political.) *Salonica, July* 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, herewith enclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 28th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the arrival and departure of Her Majesty's ironclad "Swiftsure"; the failure of the Greek bands of "sympathisers" to effect an insurrection in Epirus and Thessaly; the case at Yanina of a Christian tradesman condemned to a year's imprisonment for killing a robber in self-defence, and the arrival and departure of 200 horsemen for the army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure in No. 184.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE little of note to communicate to your Excellency by this post, except it be the arrival of Her Majesty's ironclad "Swiftsure," Captain Baird, who has been here nearly a week and leaves us to-morrow or the day after for Cavalla and Besika Bay.

There have been reports spread here of disturbances at Cavalla, but they have not been confirmed. From Volo I hear, on the 25th instant, that Greek bands of "sympathisers" have crossed the frontier, with the intention of uniting themselves with the gangs of brigands in Thessaly, in the hope of being joined by other "sympathisers," and ultimately, when they would become of sufficient numbers, creating an insurrection; but they have not met with the "sympathy" they reckoned upon. Everything is quiet there, and the harvest going on satisfactorily.

From Prevesa and Yanina I have received reports of the 7th, 14th, and 21st instants, the originals of which have been sent by Mr. Blakeney to your Excellency,

and therefore I abstain from quoting them. But I do not find in them, nor in any letters I have received, a sign of imminent political movement which can be confidently relied upon as trustworthy. The Greek Government appears to be doing all it can to give no countenance to the "sympathisers," and the uneasiness by the Mussulman population in Epirus and Thessaly has its rise in the accounts of military preparations in Greece, but they are not sufficient to authorize such fears. It seems, however, that the death of Husni Pasha is much regretted.

From Yanina M. Kipriotè reports the case of a Christian tradesman, who, on a journey with two horses loaded, was set upon by six Mustahfiz and one zaptieh, who demanded all the money he had, and who in self-defence fired and killed one of them. He has been condemned to a year's imprisonment, while the troopers to five months only each; because the Ottoman Government does not extend to Christian rayahs the right of self-defence.

Two hundred horsemen have arrived to-day from the villages, and will leave to-morrow or the next day for the army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 185.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 880.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 2, 1877.

MR. YOUNG, the representative in Turkey of the "National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War," has been good enough to send me an account of the state of Kavarna, which he visited about the same time as Captain Drummond and Vice-Consul Dalziel, whose reports of the devastation of the village he fully confirms. He adds, however, that he is under the impression that the "massacre" of some of the inhabitants of the place should not be too hastily assumed to have been done solely, or at all, by the Circassians. He has little doubt that the village was pillaged by them, but the "massacring," he thinks, is to be attributed as much to Bulgarian Christians as to the Circassians. A Mussulman, whose wounds were dressed by Dr. Hope, who accompanied Mr. Young, stated that they were inflicted in an attack made by Bulgarians on himself and other Mahommedans when they were asleep. The bodies of two women were found in a house, who, from their dresses, were evidently Mahommedans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 186.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(No. 881.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 2, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Commander Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," reporting upon the state of affairs at Bourgas. It appears that the accounts sent by Greeks of that place to Constantinople of the imminent dangers which threatened the town were, as usual, very much exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Captain Drummond to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *"Rapid," at Burghaz, July* 31, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in compliance with your telegram, I left Varna on the 29th instant, arriving here the same day.

The state of affairs here is as follows, viz.:—The force to maintain order in the town consists of a Kaimakam (who is credited with unconcern for the town), and

fifteen zaptiehs. There is also a Turkish corvette with a crew of 200 men lying in the roads.

The town is perfectly tranquil at present, but it has been thought necessary to organize a town guard to patrol the streets at night.

The population is about equally Mahomedan and Christian, and the Mahomedan population is said to be ready to leave on the arrival of the Russians at Slivno.

There is a considerable number of Noghai Tartars and Circassians in and about the town, who have come here from the Dobrudsha and north of the Balkans. They have a great deal of plunder, and have been offering sheep for 10 piastres a head. Also in the vicinity there are three or four Circassian villages, whose inhabitants no doubt would be available if there was any chance of plunder.

There are also in the town about fifty Arnaouts, whose action is much feared.

This information I have gathered from M. Bonnet, a Frenchman, who has been living here for many years, and who appears to be remarkably free from prejudice or excitement. The opinion held by this gentleman is that at present there is no danger, but that the departure of the Turkish population and authorities would be the signal to the Tartars and Circassians to plunder the town, and I entirely agree with him. I am of opinion that the safety of the town might be perfectly guaranteed by the Kaïmakam and his fifteen zaptiehs, augmented, if necessary, by a few men from the Turkish corvette, and I suppose that the action of the Kaïmakam will depend entirely on the orders he receives.

Consul Brophy is expected to return to-morrow.

I shall await here further instructions from your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMD. DRUMMOND.

No. 187.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 883.)

Therapia, August 2, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 31st ultimo, I lost no time in bringing to the notice of the Porte Mr. Consul Zohrab's statement, but without mentioning that gentleman's name as connected with it, that orders had been given to the Turkish army in Asia that, on entering Russian territories, they should only spare the women and children. The Grand Vizier met it with "the most indignant, absolute, and energetic denial." His Highness states that such an accusation is an outrage upon the Ottoman army and the Ottoman Government; and that after the Turkish Government has denounced to the world the atrocities committed by the Russians, and has protested against their unexampled outrages upon the inoffensive Mohammedan populations in Turkey, it would never dishonour itself so far as to imitate their example. If it were necessary, His Highness adds, to send fresh instructions to the Commanders of the Turkish armies, the Imperial Government would remind them of their duty not only to respect women, children, and old men, but the principles of humanity and the laws of war.

I have called upon Mr. Zohrab to give me his authority for the statement he made to me.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 188.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 884.)

Therapia, August 3, 1877.

My Lord,

FUGITIVES from the interior of Roumelia and from Bulgaria continue to arrive here in great numbers. Amongst them are, I am told, a good many Armenians and some Greeks, who are not, it is stated, more spared than the Mohammedans by Cossacks and Bulgarians. They are in the utmost misery, and their arrival here, packed together, men, women, and children, in steamboats and railway trains, is a pitiable sight. The Sultan has ordered provisions to be supplied to them, and they are thus kept, for the present, from starving; but it is feared that a great mortality will

set in amongst them. The accounts given by these poor creatures of the crowds hurrying away from their burning villages, the Cossacks dashing in amongst them, spearing, mercilessly and indiscriminately, women and children, are perfectly horrible. It is to be hoped that they are exaggerated; but they appear to be confirmed from many sources.

Mr. Consul Blunt writes to me from Adrianople that the authorities there are really doing their utmost to prevent acts of retaliation upon the Bulgarians. The town and the villages in the neighbourhood are quiet, and the panic caused by the sudden appearance of the Russians to the south of the Balkans having subsided, many of the fugitives are returning to their homes. "On the other hand," Mr. Blunt writes, "I am sorry to say that the conduct of the Bulgarians is most treacherous, for, whenever the Cossacks appear, they rise and massacre the Mussulmans. It is painful to think so, but I fear that the Russians are exciting the Bulgarians to their fiendish work through their emissaries, knowing that it cannot fail to provoke acts of retaliation which will dissever whatever ties and interests have hitherto existed between the two peoples, and produce such a mutual feeling of animosity as will make it impossible for them to live together in future as in the past. Even if peace were to be signed, Russia would leave these rich provinces in a state of religious antagonism, which it would take generations to efface."

That such has been the policy of a certain party in Russia sufficiently powerful to influence and direct the action of the Government, no one who has followed the proceedings of Russian Agents in this country can reasonably doubt.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 189.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 885.)

Therapia, August 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which have been received from Consul Blunt, and Vice-Consuls Dupuis and Rossy, as well as of two despatches which have been communicated to me by the Porte, respecting the atrocities committed by the Russians and Bulgarians on the Mahomedan population of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 189.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Adrianople, July 29, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of my arrival here yesterday evening, after three days' journey from Philippopolis. Railway communication between the two places having been interrupted through the destruction of 4 kilometres of the permanent way at Kazajik Hass-Kioi by the Cossacks and Bulgarians on the 24th instant, and the country in that direction being reported generally unsafe, in order to reach Adrianople I was compelled to make a circuit westwards on horseback through the Rhodope mountains. I was, for the same reason, unable to communicate with your Excellency by post from Philippopolis after the above date.

Your Excellency has, I believe, been informed by Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis that that part of the country has, in the meanwhile, been cleared of the Cossacks and the damage done to the railway repaired, so that communication with Philippopolis was restored yesterday, and it is hoped that in a few days it will also be restored with Jamboli; a large number of Turkish troops being employed in mending it.

From all I observed and heard during my journey Russian emissaries appear to have been at work, and successfully among the Bulgarian peasantry, who are everywhere ready to welcome the invaders. The destruction of part of the Jamboli branch railway, likewise on the 24th instant, was exclusively the work of Bulgarians; nine kilometres of the line from Rasheh Mehallé, towards Yeni-Zaghra, were destroyed,

together with five bridges and the same number of guard-houses; the telegraphic lines for the same distance were also completely destroyed, and Assin Pasha assures me that no less than thirty Turkish villages in the valley of the Toundja have been burnt and many of their inhabitants massacred by the Bulgarian peasantry. From all I hear the barbarities which are perpetrated by these peasants on the Turks in the districts occupied by the Russians have produced an intense feeling of animosity among all classes of the Mahomedan population against the Bulgarians in general, from which I apprehend the most horrible consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 189.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 30, 1877.

Sir,

I HASTEN to inclose a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis of this date reporting cases of murder and outrages said to have been committed by Bulgarians and Russians.

With reference to your Excellency's telegram to Mr. Dupuis of the 28th instant, instructing him to obtain trustworthy information about the alleged massacre in the village of Roumanli, I regret to say that the authorities here have received no official reports on the subject. I have, however, heard from unofficial sources that two Circassian Chiefs when there were fired on and killed by Bulgarians, upon which their followers made an onslaught upon the village; but the number of persons killed is not known.

To-morrow I send Mr. Calvert to Yeni-Zaghra to inquire and report upon these and other outrages said to have been committed by Turks and Bulgarians in the Toundja Valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 189.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, July 30, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have just seen and spoken with two Turkish women, Fatimé and Azemé, now lying wounded in the house of Haggi Ahmet Pasha.

From these women I learn that, while making their preparations some fourteen days since to leave the village of Terkké, in the district of Eski-Zagra, and superintending the packing of their household goods, they were suddenly fired upon by Druteho and his two servants, Bulgarians of the village of Kutchuk Hassan in the same neighbourhood. One of these women had her leg badly fractured by a ball; the other was also wounded in the leg.

A Mussulman, named Hassip Oglu Hussein, also related to me that, while on the road from Eski-Zagra, he was attacked by a band of armed Bulgarians, who fired at him and hit him in the head; and, falling down, was again struck on the head with sticks. This man showed me two wounds.

Returning to the office, a Turkish woman named Eminé and a child were brought to me, who stated that, along with seven other women and children while journeying in the open country carts from the village of Essekgi, in the district of Yeni-Zagra, suddenly perceived themselves to be followed by a party of mounted Cossacks, who, riding up to them, deliberately discharged their pistols into their midst, killing five of the women, and wounding the child by a lance thrust.

I should premise this report by informing you that, being sent for at the konak, I was there shown the mutilated corpses of two Mussulmans brought in from Yekké, a village near Mustafa Pasha, named Tchose Oglu Hassan and Sali Oglu Mehemet, two old men, who had evidently been most barbarously murdered.

The bodies were horribly mutilated and disfigured. The wounds on their heads showed that they could only have been inflicted with a hatchet or other heavy-cutting instrument.

The assassins, I was informed, were four Bulgarians, who took the precaution previously to mask their faces, and in this manner were enabled to effect their escape.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 189.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 14th instant, containing instructions for my guidance with a view to restraining the Mussulman population from acts of retaliation provoked by the barbarities alleged to have been committed by the Russian troops and the Christian Bulgarians at the instigation of the Russian authorities.

Your Excellency will have gathered from my recent reports that I have been acting to the best of my power in the spirit of those instructions during my tour in the northern districts of this vilayet.

Immediately on my return to Adrianople I placed myself in communication on the subject more particularly with the leading Mussulmans of the place, several of whom are old acquaintances of mine. I tried to impress upon all the supreme importance of the credit and the material interests of the Empire of inculcating on the Moslem inhabitants a spirit of forbearance, and of dissuading them from visiting on innocent persons an indiscriminate vengeance for the crimes committed by the Russian troops and a section of the Bulgarian people. I pointed out that by the observance of such an attitude under the present trying circumstances that they could best hope to regain for their country the sympathy which it had last year forfeited in many quarters through the indulgence of an opposite spirit.

I have reason to believe that these arguments carried some weight, for when I proceeded to broach the subject to Assim Pasha, his Excellency informed me that they had been repeated to him by those to whom they had been addressed. Both Ibrahim Pasha, the Vali, and Assim Pasha, the Minister of Justice, now here on a special mission, observed to me that I had given most friendly and sound advice.

On the other hand, I regret to have to state that I observe symptoms of a very strong feeling of animosity among the Moslems whom I have come in contact with, and I greatly fear that if these horrors continue to be perpetrated it will not be in the power of the authorities to prevent acts of retaliation. The provincial authorities and the local members of the administration are, I believe, conscientiously doing their best to calm the growing effervescence of the public mind. In this task they are ably supported by the Minister of Justice, who is known to have humane and liberal ideas, and has given proofs of great capacity as an administrator in more than one villayet.

Salvet Pasha and Sherif Bey, the chief Turkish notables of this place, have been dispatched to Philippopolis with a similar object. I am not personally acquainted with the former personage, and can say nothing as to his fitness for the service; but as regards Sherif Bey, I am in a position to say that a better selection could not have been made. During last year's disturbances he opposed most strenuously, though unhappily without effect, the calling out of the Bashi-Bazouks. Not only were his warnings on this head disregarded by the then Vali of Adrianople, Akif Pasha, but he was set down as indifferent to his country's cause, and his position here was made so unpleasant that he was obliged to retire to Constantinople for six months. All the leading members of the native Christian communities, as well as all the principal foreign merchants and several of my colleagues here, have unanimously expressed to me their high sense of Sherif Bey's conduct on that occasion.

I beg leave, in conclusion, to repeat that, in my opinion, all these precautionary steps will be in vain unless the atrocities now being committed by the Russian troops and by the Christian Bulgarians under their auspices are at once put a stop to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 189.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, July 31, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE closing my previous despatch to your Excellency of to-day's date, the Vali of Adrianople has communicated to me three telegrams which he has just received, and translations, of which I have the honour to inclose herewith, namely:—

1. From the Mutessarif of Slimnia, reporting an alleged general massacre of Moslem men, women, and children at the village of Khidr Bey, in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra; and other acts of violence by the Russian troops.

2. From the Kaïmakam of Tchirpan, reporting an insurrectionary outbreak and slaughter of Moslem men and women by the Bulgarians at the villages of Karadja, Viran, and Alageune.

3. From the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, referring to the preceding report, and to a similar outbreak in the Caza of Philippopolis, as indication of a growing rebellion.

In transmitting to your Excellency these reports, I regret that the increasingly disturbed state of the country makes it impossible for me to investigate on the spot the occurrences said to have taken place.

Your Excellency will observe that Reports 2 and 3 mention attempts made by the Bulgarians to force the Mussulmans to embrace Christianity; and Report 1 seems to point to a like course of action on the part of the Russian military authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 189.

The Mutessarif of Slimnia to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

Slimnia, July $\frac{17}{29}$, 1877.

IT is with great pain that I communicate to your Excellency the following intelligence:—

The Kaïmakam of Yeni-Zaghra reports to me that three women and one man, all Moslems, two of the former being wounded, have come to Mehmed Pasha (the General now at Yeni-Zaghra), telling him that the Russians having arrived the day before yesterday at the village of Khidr Bey, in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra, massacred there 400 Mussulmans, inhabitants of the place and its neighbourhood, sparing neither man, woman, nor child. The four persons above mentioned only escaped with their lives by flight, taking with them a young child.

I further learn that upwards of 30 Mussulmans from Tirnova, who had taken refuge in these parts, have been seized by the Cossacks and Bulgarians, the women dressed in the Christian costume (that is to say unveiled), and conducted back to Tirnova with brutal treatment. This fact has been reported by two inhabitants of the Balkan districts.

Inclosure 7 in No. 189.

The Kaïmakam of Tchirpan to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tchirpan, July $\frac{15}{27}$, 1877.

THE Bulgarians of the village of Karadja-Viran (inhabited by 85 Mussulmans in 33 houses and 290 Bulgarians in 78 houses, and containing a large farm house) along with the Bulgarians of Alageune having first surrounded the first-named village, we, on learning the fact, sent to the assistance of the Mussulman villagers a detachment of infantry and cavalry. These having returned, informed me that the Bulgarians in the first place disarmed the Mussulmans, they then killed and cut in pieces five men and one woman, and having brought the remainder to the village church, forced them to embrace Christianity. The Bulgarian insurgents, unable to resist our troops, retreated towards the village of Alageune, leaving behind them twelve killed and wounded. Before quitting Karadja-Viran they set fire to the Mussulman houses and the farm-house. The flames were carried by the wind to the Bulgarian houses also, so that the village has been totally destroyed. Our soldiers lost one of their number killed and another wounded. They have conducted hither all the Mussulmans of Karadja-Viran, as also those of the villages of Yeni-Mahalleh, Hadji-Aghoullar, and Mahmoudlar.

Inclosure 8 in No. 189.

The Mutessarif of Philippopolis to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, July $\frac{15}{27}$, 1877.

THE Kaïmakam has informed me by telegraph that the Bulgarians of the plains and mountain districts of that caza, forming themselves into separate bands, have taken to revolt and brigandage; and that those of Karadja-Viran and Alageune, after disarming the Mussulmans of the former village, cut in pieces five men and one woman, and bringing the rest of the inhabitants to the church, forced them to embrace Christianity. Troops having been sent against these rebels, they took to flight leaving twelve of their number dead and eleven wounded, whilst on our side one man was killed and another wounded. They burnt their own houses along with those of the Mussulmans.

In putting together the above facts and that of the insurrection of the Bulgarian peasantry in two nahies of Caza of Philippopolis, it is no longer possible to doubt that rebellion is assuming day by day larger proportions. As the Commander-in-chief and Houloussi Pasha are absent with the troops under their command, and those at our disposal having been sent against the insurgents or being employed in delivering the inhabitants of the surrounded Mussulman villages, Safvet Pasha has reported state of affairs to the Commander-in-chief, and I beg at the same time to bring it to the notice of your Excellency.

Inclosure 9 in No. 189.

Vice-Consul Rossy to Consul-General Fawcett.

(Télégraphique.)

Enos, July 31, 1877.

LES Bulgares assassinèrent à Passali, deux heures loin Enos, cinq femmes et trois hommes Musulmans.

Inclosure 10 in No. 189.

The Governor-General of Adrianople to the Grand Vizier.

(Télégraphique.)

Le 30 *Juillet*, 1877.

JE porte à la connaissance de votre Altesse les faits suivants qui entrent dans le cadre des atrocités que les Russes et les Bulgares commettent sans merci sur la population Musulmane.

Lundi passé les habitants d'un village Bulgare dans le district de Yeni-Zagrah, venant à Tanzmak (village exclusivement Turc), ont blessé deux femmes les nommées Gariné et Fatma. Le même jour les Bulgares, passant par le village Turc dit Baba-Musslim, ont blessé également cinq Musulmans; ils ont assassiné quatre Musulmans dans le village Ala-Tagh, blessé au moyen du plomb et de la baïonnette les nommés Ahmed, Mustapha, la nommée Zilima, âgée de deux ans, tous les trois du village d'Echekdji, ainsi que la nommée Fatma, du village de Gulfar, dans le Caza de Tirnova.

Quatre Bulgares ont blessé en plusieurs endroits les nommés Hassan et Kodja Mehemmed, du village dit Haker-Baba. C'est avec regret que j'annonce la mort de ces deux malheureux, qui n'ont pu survivre à cet acte de boucherie.

Ils ont, en outre, massacré douze émigrés Musulmans qui quittaient les villages d'Avabli et Embarli, et parmi lesquels il y avait aussi des femmes et enfants.

Je suis informé que des actes de cette nature se sont répétés à Yeni-Zagrah, Islimié, Yamboli, et dans les autres parties de notre vilayet. J'ai fait venir à Andri-

nople les cadavres de Hassan et de Mehmet ci-dessus mentionnés, ainsi que les blessés précités, et j'ai fait constater ces faits par MM. Blunt, Dupuis, et le correspondant du journal "Times."

Inclosure 11 in No. 189.

Résumé of a Despatch from the Governor-General of Adrianople to the Grand Vizier.

Le 31 Juillet, 1877.

LE sous-Gouverneur de Yeni-Zaghra m'informe télégraphiquement que trois dames Turques, dont deux blessées, et un Turc venant du village de Hassir Bey à Yeni-Zaghra, ont trouvé le Général Mehemmed Pacha pour lui rapporter que les Russes partis avant hier de Yeni-Zaghra sont arrivés dans le sus dit village (Hassir Bey), où ils ont impitoyablement massacré 100 Musulmans, hommes et femmes, qu'ils avaient ramassés sur leur chemin.

Deux habitants des Balkans arrivés tout récemment racontent également que les Cosaques, assistés par les Bulgares, ont saisi une trentaine d'émigrés Turcs venant de Tirnova, qu'ils obligèrent de changer leur costume et de prendre des habits portés par les Chrétiens, tels que robes, &c. Après quoi ils les ont reconduits avec une rage sauvage à Tirnova.

No. 190.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 653. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 5, 1877.*

I HAVE reason to believe that an arrangement will be concluded to-morrow with Messrs. Rothschild and other banking houses here by which the funds will be placed at the disposal of the Government which may be necessary for carrying out the mobilization which was authorized at the Council held on the 31st ultimo.

Hopes, however, are entertained on the Exchange that Austria, in consequence of the recent Turkish victories, may not require to take the military measures which had been contemplated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 191.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 655.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 6, 1877.*

AFTER notifying his intention to the Austrian authorities, the Commander of the Turkish forces in Bosnia attacked about 2,000 insurgents under the command of Despotovich near the north-western frontier of the province, who retreated into a strip of territory between the Unna and the frontier, which, having been believed by the Turkish commanders to belong to Austria, the insurgents have hitherto found to be a safe place of refuge. On this occasion, however, the Turks having received more correct information as to the locality of the frontier, crossed the Unna and dispersed them, driving 300 and Despotovich into Austrian territory, where they were disarmed and interned,—Count Andrassy, to whom a report was sent on the subject, having ordered the latter measure.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 192.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 657. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 6, 1877.*

I WAS informed to-day by Baron Orczy that he has received a positive assurance from the Servian Agent here that the new levy of his Government, which does not exceed 3,000 men, is merely intended for the defence of the frontier.

His Excellency stated, however, that reports received from other sources tended to show that the Government at Belgrade only await some slight encouragement from Russia to resume hostilities. On my asking how such an eventuality would be looked upon at Vienna, he said the Government would not interfere to prevent Servia taking part in the war.

It would appear, therefore, if the statement is correct that any Austrian force which may be mobilized in consequence of the authority granted to Count Andrassy, must be intended for service in Bosnia or the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 193.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 659. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 6, 1877.*

IN a conversation to-day with Baron Orczy, I referred again to the alleged intention of the Greek Government to send a force into Epirus and Thessaly, if Austria occupies Bosnia; and I observed at the same time that it is said to be believed at Athens, that the latter eventuality may be immediate. Baron Orczy avoided in his reply making any reference to the occupation of Bosnia by Austria, and stated that in his opinion the reports of Greek warlike preparations were greatly exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 194.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 663. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 6, 1877.*

HAVING met Count Andrassy this evening, I spoke to him of the military preparations in Greece, but he said he thought it unlikely that the Greek Government would declare war to Turkey, as they have no reason now to fear the creation of a great Bulgarian State.

His Excellency seemed also to be of opinion that there is little chance of peace being re-established in the East this year.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 195.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No 665. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 7, 1877.*

IN my telegrams of yesterday, reporting conversations with Baron Orczy, in which his Excellency seemed unwilling to express an opinion on the alleged intention of the Greeks to enter Epirus and Thessaly, in the event of Bosnia being occupied by Austria, I think it right to add that Baron Calice stated to me to-day that there was

little probability of the former eventuality taking place, if it depended upon the occupation of Bosnia by Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 196.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 668.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 8, 1877.*

WITH reference to Mr. Harriss-Gastrell's despatches, reporting that public meetings have been held throughout Hungary expressing sympathy with Turkey, and deprecating the annexation of Turkish territory by Austria-Hungary; and that a meeting has taken place at Agram, at which resolutions were adopted favourable to Russia, and sympathising with the aspirations of the Slav subjects of the Sultan, it appears that the Hungarian Government have not attempted to prevent these demonstrations of popular opinion.

On the other hand, the Austrian Government have prohibited a meeting which had been convoked at Lemberg, with a view to deprecate the cruelty with which Russia is alleged to be carrying on the war, and another intended to have been held at Laibach, to express sympathy with the Bulgarians. I understand, however, that the difference between the action of the two Governments in the matter arises from the people being more independent of administrative control in Hungary than in Austria.

It is said that the Emperor had expressed a hope to M. Tisza that the philo-Turkish meetings in Hungary might be prevented, as they would lead to counter demonstrations in other parts of the monarchy, but that the public feeling on the subject was too strong to be restrained or directed by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 197.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 669. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 9, 1877.*

BARON BECHTOLSHEIM, the Austrian Military Attaché at the Emperor of Russia's head-quarters, who travelled from Bulgaria with Colonel Wellesley, left again yesterday for Bucharest.

His opinions on Russian questions generally are what might be expected from a favourite in St. Petersburgh society, but he held the same language which Colonel Wellesley has, I understand, been requested to use to your Lordship, as to the anxious wish of the Emperor Alexander for the re-establisement of peace, if it can be done on terms at all likely to satisfy His Majesty's subjects; and he dwelt, in speaking to me on the question, on the honour which would be acquired by Her Majesty's Government, if they could take the initiative in promoting this desirable object. As Colonel Wellesley will have fully acquainted your Lordship with the views of the Emperor, as far as he may have been pleased to express them, I have merely mentioned the subject to show that Baron Bechtolsheim has probably spoken in a similar sense here. He assured me also that there is no foundation for reports which have reached Vienna of Russian officers at Bucharest expressing publicly advanced liberal opinions, and of having called for the "Marseillaise" at places of amusement; or of the Emperor's return to St. Petersburgh having been spoken of as impossible unless the arms of Russia are victorious. I trust that it is so, for were it otherwise, I fear that worse evils than the difficulty of obtaining peace which would be satisfactory to Europe might be apprehended.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 198.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Corfu, August 9, 1877.*

I REGRET to have to report that, since the date of my despatch No. 13, Political, of the 26th July, all the information I have received from Vice-Consul Onofrio, as well as from other reliable sources, represents the political excitement along the Acarnanian frontier as daily increasing, and the danger of a collision with the Turkish forces is imminent.

2. In order to bring about this most undesirable consummation, the exertions of the Heterists here and at St. Maura are unremitting.

The Chiefs of these confraternities appear not to trust the Post Office with their correspondence, and their communications are consequently kept up by secret agents, who pass to and fro by means of the weekly Austrian steamer.

3. We have received an addition to our permanent elements of mischief in the person of the notorious Colonel McIvor, who made himself conspicuous while the war in Servia lasted. He had previously served, I understand, under Don Carlos in Spain, and during the civil war in America. Be this as it may, his visit to this quarter at the present crisis bodes no good.

He was preceded last week by another military adventurer, styling himself the "Marquis of Otto," a Russian Colonel, and displaying numerous Russian military orders. He, too, figured in the Servian campaign. This I know for certain, although both the Russian Consul-General and Colonel Becker disowned his acquaintance, which was quite natural on their part. The "Marquis" had been expelled from Dalmatia by the Austrians. He went on from hence to Athens.

4. But what has added more than anything else to the growing excitement and uneasiness, is the transmission from Athens of a large quantity of arms and military accoutrements to Vonizza and Agrinion, on the frontiers of Thessaly, professedly for the use of the new levies, which new levies, in many parts, are coming but slowly to the front. This measure might have well been deferred for another month at least, as recruits have a good deal to learn before having muskets put into their hands.

The arms for Agrinion were forwarded by land from Missolonghi, and I have it on most respectable authority that large quantities of them have already found their way across the Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 199.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 13.)

(No. 315. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, August 10, 1877.*

ACCORDING to Mr. Layard's "Secret" telegram of the 3rd instant, inclosed in your Lordship's No. 285 of the 8th instant, "the German Ambassador at Constantinople had authorized the Greek Minister to telegraph to Athens that Austria would occupy Bosnia immediately," and Mr. Layard thought it might be suspected that Germany was inciting Greece to attack Turkey.

Here at Berlin the Foreign Office authorities insist on it that Prince Reuss' instructions are to observe a strictly neutral attitude.

His communication to the Greek Minister is in contradition with the impression prevailing at Berlin, namely, that Austria will refrain if possible from occupying Turkish territory unless a complete defeat of the Turkish army rendered such a measure advisable.

If Prince Reuss has committed himself to the assurance that Austria will occupy Bosnia immediately, his language will scarcely meet with Prince Bismarck's approval.

I have no doubt that the German Government wish for the ultimate success of Russia in Turkey, but the best authorities in the German Government believe that any attempt on the part of Greece to attack Turkey will end in failure as the Greek

army is not a match for that of Turkey, and will be beaten if it should ever expose itself to an encounter with the Sultan's forces.

A similar impression prevails in regard to the Roumanian army.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 200.

M. Tricoupis to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by M. Gennadius, August 13.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le* $\frac{23 \text{ Juillet}}{4 \text{ Août}}$, 1877.

VOUS trouverez ci-joint un résumé, en Français, du rapport du Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Varna, qui donne les détails des massacres de Cavarna.

J'ai tout lieu de les croire exacts, car les versions qui arrivent de tous côtés, loin de se contredire, sont unanimes à confirmer la triste réalité.

Cette sanglante tragédie est une reproduction des scènes de Batak et de Gargalik, avec la seule différence que cette fois les victimes ne se sont pas laissées égorger sans défense. Une résistance héroïque fut opposée aux assaillants par les habitants de Cavarna. Cette lutte a duré trois jours et a coûté la vie à une centaine de ces bandits que le fanatisme Musulman a curdés sous ses drapeaux.

Le sort de Cavarna, exclusivement habité par des Grecs, a eu ici un douloureux retentissement, l'émotion a été grande et l'indignation générale s'est traduite dans la presse d'une manière très expressive.

L'Europe, qui fut si fortement émue par les massacres des Bulgares n'éprouvera-t-elle pas le même sentiment d'horreur au récit de ces atrocités, et ne comprendra-t-elle pas que la race Hellénique, en butte aux mêmes souffrances, a un droit égal à sa sollicitude! La Grèce a été la première à signaler à l'Europe les dangers qui résulteraient de l'immigration des Circassiens. Aux représentations qui lui furent adressées de tous côtés, la Porte a répondu en joignant à ces hordes sauvages les Bachi-Bouzouks et les Zeibeks.

Les rapports de nos Consuls sont remplis du récit des atrocités commises journellement par ces trois fléaux qui ont pris à tâche d'exterminer les Chrétiens.

Une pareille situation est grosse de périls et je crains que le Gouvernement Royal ne se trouve impuissant d'arrêter l'explosion du sentiment public, si ces atrocités continuent à avoir lieu dans les provinces Chrétiennes.

L'Europe ne peut pas ignorer que le pouvoir Ottoman n'a plus aucune action sur ses administrés, qu'une anarchie complète règne dans les provinces, et que, soit faiblesse, soit calcul, les autorités locales montrent une inertie coupable, qui fixe la complicité. La manière dont les autorités Ottomanes ont agi dans l'affaire de Cavarna, en fournit des indices plus que suffisants.

Nous n'entendons pas dresser une requisitoire contre le Gouvernement Ottoman. Mais nous manquerions à nos devoirs si, de notre côté, nous n'élevions pas la voix pour signaler à l'Europe les graves dangers que courent en ce moment les Chrétiens de la Turquie.

Le peuple Hellénique, qui a su conserver sa nationalité à travers les plus cruelles épreuves, ne pourrait consentir à sacrifier ses destinées, en restant spectateur impassible de cet état de choses.

Il appartient aux Cabinets Européens de combiner leur action de manière à prévenir de si fâcheuses extrémités et mettre l'Orient à l'abri des convulsions périodiques, dont l'intensité semble appeler, depuis quelque temps, des remèdes plus efficaces.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) CH. TRICOUPIS.

Inclosure in No. 200.

Résumé of the Report of the Greek Vice-Consul at Varna on the Kavarna Massacre.

LES rapports du Vice-Consul de Grèce à Varna ne laissent aucun doute sur les massacres de Cavarna. On ne saurait encore évaluer exactement le nombre des personnes massacrées et des femmes et des enfants enlevés par les Circassiens; mais d'après un calcul approximatif, et qui repose sur des données probables, le chiffre des victimes s'élève à 750 âmes, ce qui constitue le quart de la population de Cavarna. Ce hameau était exclusivement habité par des Grecs. Il possédait une belle église et une belle école, et sa prospérité allait crescendo. Les Turcs voyaient toujours de mauvais œil les progrès des Chrétiens. Cet air de prospérité, qui caractérise généralement les villages habités par les Chrétiens et qui constitue un contraste frappant avec l'état misérable des villages Musulmans, avait apparemment excité depuis longtemps la convoitise des Circassiens.

Encouragés par l'attitude plus que passive des autorités Ottomanes, ces sauvages commirent des atrocités que la plume refuse de décrire. Nous allons essayer de retracer brièvement les événements de Cavarna tels qu'ils ressortent des rapports du Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Varna.

Dans la matinée du 9 courant (Juillet) le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Varna fut informé par télégraphe qu'on massacrait les Chrétiens à Cavarna. Aussitôt il se mit à la recherche du Gouverneur, qu'il ne put trouver qu'à minuit dans l'établissement télégraphique. Notre Vice-Consul communiqua le télégramme au Gouverneur et lui tient un language sévère en le rendant responsable du sang qui coulait, si des mesures efficaces n'étaient pas prises sur le champ. Au même moment le Métropolitain de Varna faisait des démarches analogues. Mais on sera étonné d'apprendre que ce fonctionnaire, tout en promettant de prendre les mesures nécessaires, cherchait à justifier les massacres en disant que les Chrétiens de Cavarna auraient dû quitter leurs foyers plutôt que d'y rester armés pour repousser l'agression. En d'autres termes, Ali Bey (tel est le nom de ce personnage désormais historique) contestait aux Chrétiens le droit de se défendre.

Lorsque la force armée Ottomane arriva sur les lieux, l'œuvre de la destruction était déjà accomplie. Les Circassiens avaient mis le feu aux quatre coins du faubourg dont les édifices ne tardèrent pas à devenir la proie des flammes. Une lutte désespérée et héroïque s'était engagée pendant trois jours entre les habitants et les assaillants. Au moment suprême les habitants déployèrent un courage digne de la réputation traditionnelle de la race Hellénique. Mais dans une lutte aussi inégale et en présence de l'inertie des autorités Ottomanes, qui ont envoyé des secours tardifs, ils ne pouvaient que succomber. Les hommes qui ont pu échapper du massacre, se sont réfugiés dans les montagnes et dans une forteresse voisine.

Quant aux femmes et aux enfants qui avaient échappé aux poursuites des Circassiens, ainsi que les hommes blessés, ils ont été recueillis à bord de la frégate cuirassée, commandée par Osman Pacha, et transportés à Varna.

Le spectacle que présentaient ces êtres infortunés était navrant. Des enfants demi-nus demandaient leurs parents en poussant des cris lamentables; des époux recherchaient leurs malheureuses compagnes et des parents exténués par la fatigue et la douleur, se traînaient éplorés et tremblants pour découvrir leurs enfants au milieu de ces épaves humaines. Ces malheureux ont réfusé de s'embarquer à bord d'un cuirassé Ottoman, de peur d'être transporté en Asie. En ce moment le bateau-à-vapeur Anglais "Rapid" venait d'entrer en rade. Ils se sont adressés alors au commandant pour lui dire qu'ils étaient prêts à partir dès qu'il serait pourvu à leurs moyens de subsistance.

Probablement ils craignaient d'être jetés sur quelque côte inhospitalière, où ils auraient succomber aux horreurs de la famine.

Tels sont les principaux détails de cette horrible tragédie. Plusieurs indices concourent à établir une inertie coupable, sinon une complicité, des autorités Ottomanes. Ainsi un officier Ottoman nommé Kurd Mehmed Agha, s'étant rendu à Cavarna un peu avant le massacre, avait engagé les habitants à payer aux Circassiens 60,000 piastres et quitter leurs foyers dans l'espace de quelques heures. Les habitants avaient délégué quatre personnes pour discuter cette proposition avec cet officier, et c'est pendant les délibérations que les Circassiens, qui avaient déjà entouré la ville de Cavarna, se sont jetés sur ses habitants pour se livrer aux atrocités dont nous venons de parler.

Un autre fait digne de remarque qui vient à la charge des autorités Ottomanes, c'est que l'employé du télégraphe (un Arménien nommé Ermozian) qui avait transmis à notre Vice-Consul le télégramme annonçant les massacres, fut transporté à Cavarna le même soir par le Caïmacam de Baldjik, où il fut massacré de la façon la plus tragique.

No. 201.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 13.)

Constantinople, le 11 *Août*, 1877.

LE Comte Andrassy nous a tranquillisés plus d'une fois à l'égard de la Servie, en déclarant que cette Principauté ne chercherait point à nous attaquer durant la guerre actuelle. En outre, le Cabinet de Vienne nous a donné à plusieurs reprises assurances formelles sur la décision de la Russie de respecter la neutralité de la Servie. De son côté, M. Cristich ne cesse de nous donner ici des assurances sur les dispositions pacifiques de son Gouvernement.

Nonobstant ces déclarations réitérées, les préparatifs militaires en Servie se poursuivent depuis quelque temps avec une si grande activité, qu'il n'est plus permis de douter d'une nouvelle agression de la part des Serviens, soit en participant à la guerre comme auxiliaire de la Russie, soit en agissant isolément. D'autre part, il est probable qu'à la suite des échecs éprouvés par l'armée Russe, il entrerait dans les vues et dans les plans de nos ennemis d'envahir la Servie, de nous créer ainsi de nouveaux embarras et de compliquer encore davantage la situation. Nous ne croyons pas que la Russie ait pris par Traité envers l'Autriche l'engagement de respecter la neutralité de la Principauté; mais l'assurance avec laquelle le Cabinet de Vienne a toujours persisté à affirmer que cette neutralité ne serait pas violée nous autorise à être persuadés qu'il subsiste sur ce point une entente formelle entre les deux Puissances. Cependant, la Russie, qui ne s'est jamais fait scrupule de méconnaître ses promesses, n'hésiterait pas aujourd'hui non plus à contrevenir à cette entente.

Veuillez entretenir Lord Derby de toutes ces éventualités, et me télégraphier sa manière de voir, ainsi que les informations qu'il pourrait avoir, de son côté, sur les préparatifs militaires de la Servie. Sa Seigneurie jugera peut-être opportun d'adresser à Belgrade des conseils propres à maintenir la province dans la voie de la sagesse et de la tranquillité.

No. 202.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, August* 13, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of 23rd July, part of 7th Russian Corps d'Armée is now marching through Galatz.

No. 203.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 433.) *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1877.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and left with me the telegram of which I inclose a copy, as to the threatening attitude of Servia.

I told Musurus Pasha that I had no certain knowledge either of the intentions of the Servian Government or of the course which Austria would be disposed to adopt in the event of that Principality acting offensively against Turkey. I am inclined, however, to believe that the Austrian Government would refrain from interfering except in the case of an invasion of Bosnia by the Servian forces, in which event Austria might possibly resort to occupation of parts of Turkish or Servian territory adjacent to her own frontier, ostensibly as a measure of self-defence against the spreading of disturbance among her own population.

In reply to Musurus Pasha's inquiry whether Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to recommend the Servian Government to maintain a peaceful and neutral attitude, I said that I would consider whether any steps of the kind could usefully be taken; that having exerted themselves to obtain for Servia honourable and satisfactory terms of peace with the Porte, Her Majesty's Government had undoubtedly a right to give such advice at Belgrade, but that in a time of war remonstrances were rarely of much effect unless there were some material inducement to support them, and that no practical advantage could result either to the Porte or to Her Majesty's Government

from the use of arguments or representations which would too probably be treated with indifference or neglect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 204.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Stuart.

(No. 49. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, August* 13, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 181, Most Confidential, of the 2nd instant, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to M. Tricoupi on the subject of the warlike preparations which are being made by the Greek Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 205.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 57. Consular.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper on the military situation and communications in Bosnia, which he has requested me to forward to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 205.

Memorandum on Military Situation and Communications in Bosnia.

THE pretext for a military occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Austria would be to restore order in the disturbed districts. For this purpose the possession of the seat of Government in Bosna-Serai becomes of first importance. Under the present circumstances it may be of some interest to consider how that object could be obtained.

Bosnia is a hilly, wooded country, and though presenting but slight engineering difficulties, the communications up to the present time have been very much neglected. Such as they are, they are usually found joining the towns and villages which are built along the valleys. Owing to this peculiarity, and there being but little trade in the country, the roads will be seen to have but few lateral communications. But the necessities of Government obliging intercourse with the capital, nearly all the roads will be found, after following up some river, to cross the mountains and centre in Bosna-Serai.

No detailed description of the Bosnian highways exists in English, and it is proposed that a series of road reports should be drawn up as opportunity occurs.

With this view the tracks have been numbered consecutively as they lead to Bosna-Serai, beginning at the Drina and working round by the north, west, south, and eastern frontiers. An index of the proposed numbering is attached, also road report No. 5.

Some years ago a railway was projected to join Thessaly with the European system, but the sections Salonica, Mitrovica, and Novi-Banjaluka were alone finished. The latter, or Bosnian section, was closed at the outbreak of the insurrection of 1875, when a bridge was destroyed.

What trade still exists between Bosnia and the rest of Europe follows one or other of the three roads:

Brood, Bosna-Serai (No. 5).
Gradiska, Banjaluka (No. 6).
Ragusa, Mostar, Bosna-Serai (No. 14).

These three are the only ones which would compare with European roads. They are constantly being used by wheeled transport, and might, if properly attended to, be very fair roads. At present they are in a very bad state, the Government having ceased to employ forced labour on the highways, has little or no funds available for payment for repairs.

Except in the Bosavina, stone is everywhere at hand, and throughout Bosnia timber is always to be had for bridging purposes. In Herzegovina wood is scarce, but the metalling material is abundant.

Postal communication with Europe is maintained by the Austrian Consular Service, which sends a cart weekly from Bosna-Seraï to Brood and back, doing the journey each way in forty-four hours.

The Turkish Imperial Post to Constantinople is carried weekly in four or five days on horseback viâ Novi-Bazaar to Mitrovica.

The Turkish post also runs weekly to Mostar, whence the Austrian Consular cart goes twice a week to Metkovic and joins the regular Austrian service for Ragusa.

There is also a Turkish post to Bihac and Brood viâ Banjaluka.

Telegraph lines run from Bosna-Seraï to Nish (International); Zvornik; Travnik Banjaluka, Livno, Bihac, Novi-Kostajnica, Gradiska-Brood; Mostar; Nichsich viâ Gacko; Ragusa; Gorajda; and Toca.

The traveller in Bosnia will nearly always find food for man and beast at the various khans along the chief roads. Water and fuel are always to be found in Bosnia, though both are scarce in parts of Herzegovina.

The Turkish troops, when on the march, are fed by local contractors. They usually move in small bodies, and hitherto there has been no difficulty about supplies. But now that the insurrection in the north-east has laid waste so large a portion of the Sandjak of Kraina food is so scarce that even in the towns the inhabitants are becoming dependent on Government supplies for their subsistence.

Camping grounds suitable for battalions, batteries and squadrons can be found everywhere along the valleys now the hay is cut, and in another ten days or fortnight, when the corn ought to be carried in the larger valleys, camps for brigades or divisions could be formed.

At the present time (3rd August), when the Turkish force has been reduced to such a small body, the Austrians would probably advance in small columns.

From Slavonia, the main body could advance on Bosna-Seraï from Brood viâ Dervent and the valley of the Bosna; a smaller force could march from Gradiska on Banjaluka and Travnik, whilst a detachment on the Drina would guard the Servian frontier.

From Croatia the Austrians could enter by Kostajnica, Dvor (Novi), and Bihac, and occupy the Sandjak of Kraina.

From Dalmatia small bodies entering from Knin and Sinj would occupy Petrovac and Livno. The main column, advancing up the Narenta Valley, would march on Bosna-Seraï by Mostar, whilst the Herzegovina would be occupied by troops from Ragusa.

The above supposition is founded on the fact that at the present moment the Austrians are collecting stores, such as pack-saddles, water-bottles, &c., at various points along their frontier.

The Turkish regulars in Bosnia and Herzegovina are supposed to number some 13 battalions Nizam and Redif infantry; 5 batteries field artillery, and 3 batteries mountain artillery.

The zaptiehs, both horse and foot, would make excellent soldiers, but they are scattered throughout the provinces in performance of police duties.

The Mustahfiz are all out, and irregular cavalry in small bodies are employed in the disturbed districts, viz., Kraina, Dervent, and Herzegovina.

Speaking generally, it may be said that the whole Mussulman population fit for service are at present under arms.

The men of the regulars (Nizam and Redif) are excellent material, of good physique and cheerful, but all having been employed lately either in harassing frontier duty, or in Herzegovina, or against Montenegro, their clothes and equipment are in a miserable state, and the men themselves looked as if they wanted rest. It is said that their rations are not sufficient, and this when the men do not receive any pay, which might enable them to supplement their ordinary meals, is a very serious matter.

Their arms are in fair order.

The artillery field guns are bronze muzzle-loaders and steel Krupp breech-loaders, apparently about calibre of our 9-pounders.

The mountain artillery, which seems a very efficiently-worked service, has small steel Krupp breech-loaders. The infantry have Snider Enfields, and either carry a sword or bayonet. Very few have scabbards or pouches, but all manage to carry their ammunition some way or other.

The mounted zaptiehs are armed with repeating rifles.

The field-guns are drawn by six horses; the mountain-artillery is carried on mules.

The mounted zaptiehs and irregulars find their own horses, useful little animals for outpost and escort duty, but not suited to work in bodies, and perfectly untrained.

The Commander-in-chief, Vely Pasha, has his head-quarters in Bosna-Seraï.

Salih Zeki Pasha, till lately commanding at Banjaluka, has just taken up the command in Herzegovina, with the rank of Ferik (General of Division). He is an old soldier, who brought himself into notoriety during the Damascus massacres.

Ismet Pasha, who commands in the Kraina, is an uneducated Bosniac, who, being of good family, was appointed Major when the Bosniac battalions were raised, about 1866. He is entirely without military knowledge, and his operation against the insurgents has neither shown talent nor judgment, whilst his reports are not to be relied on.

In Bosna-Seraï there are quartered 2 battalions of infantry, 2 batteries of field-artillery (1 muzzle-loader), and 2 mountain guns.

The main body of troops is divided between the Kraina and Herzegovina. The frontier is guarded by a thin cordon of regulars and mustahfiz. At the present time Salih Zeki Pasha is collecting troops at Mostar for the relief of Nichsich, which is besieged by the Montenegrins.

Ismet Pasha has been interrupted in his assembling of troops at Livno to attack Dispotovic, the insurgents having taken the offensive, and attacked the Turks in Kljné. The insurgents were beaten off with loss (about July 29), but this attack will probably disarrange the Turkish concentration at Livno.

Should the Austrians advance Ismet and Salih Pasha would be the first to come in contact with them. The Turks have not been able to suppress the insurrection, and it is not to be supposed that they will make much of a stand against a regularly-organized and ably handled European army, backed up by the insurgents and Montenegrins.

The Governor, Mazhar Pasha, intends to oppose Austrian intervention, relying on the Orthodox (Greek) Bosniacs to support his troops and Turkish rule. This looks like leaning on a bruised reed, for though the Greek Church has little to gain by Austrian protection, its members are those very people who for the last two years have been seeking refuge on Austrian territory, and filling Europe with stories of Mohamedan oppression.

Up to the present, the Latins (Roman Catholics) have remained passive spectators of this insurrection, being, if anything, supposed rather to support the Turks; but, should Austria enter Bosnia, there is little doubt but that, to a man, the Latins would join the Roman Catholic Power.

Under these circumstances, it would be better for Vely Pasha to concentrate all his forces near Bosna-Seraï, and endeavour to keep up communication with Constantinople. It would take the Austrians some seven days at least after crossing the frontier before they could approach Bosna-Seraï, and during that time decisive events are likely to occur round Adrianople and Shumla.

Should, on the other hand, the Turks determine to make a firm resistance, though there is little doubt of the ultimate success of Austria, the war would degenerate into that most wearisome and exhaustive of all military operations—a guerilla campaign, which would cost the Austrians time, men, and money.

In case the occupation of Bosnia by Austria be accomplished quickly and without much fighting, it is probable that the country will settle down without any of the atrocities which mark the Russian progress through Bulgaria. In Bosnia the Mahomedan and Christian element are very much mixed, and both are of Slav origin. From its beginning, the insurrection has had more of an agrarian than of a religious character.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER,
Vice-Consul in Bosnia.

Bosna-Seraï, August 3, 1877.

Inclosure 2 in No. 205.

Proposed Numbering of Road Reports in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1. Novi Bicka, Bjelina, Janza, Zvornik (Nos. 2 and 3).
2. Novi Bicka, Dol Tuzla (No. 3), Zvornik (Nos. 1 and 3), Kladanj, Bosna-Seraï.
3. Samac, Gradacac, Gracanica, Dol Tuzla (No. 2).
3A. Samac, Gradacac, Gracanica, Majlaj (No. 5).
4. Samac, Modric, Kotorsko, Doboj (No. 5).
5A. Brood, Dervent, Prujavor, Banjaluka (No. 6).
5B. Brood, Dervent, Doboj (No. 4), Tesanj.
5C. Brood, Dervent, Doboj, Majlaj (No. 3A), Zenica, Visoka, Bosna-Seraï.
5. Brood, Dervent, Doboj, Majlaj, Zenica, Busovaca (No. 6), Kisiljalo (No. 13), Bosna-Seraï.
6. Gradiska, Banjaluka (Nos. 5A and 7), Sitnica (No. 16), Vasear Vakuf, Jaice, Travnik (No. 13), Busovaca (No. 5).
7. Dubica, Sevarlir, Prjedor (Nos. 8, 9), Banjaluka (No. 6).
8. Kostajnica, Sevarlir, Prjedor (Nos. 7 and 9), Sanskimost (No. 9).
9. Dvor, Novi, Prjedor (Nos. 8 and 7), Stari Majdan, Sanskimost (No. 9).
10. Dvor, Novi, Krupa, Bihac (No. 11).
11. Slivno, Bihac (No. 10), Pretrovac (No. 12), Kljuc, Sitnica (No. 6).
12. Kuin, Srv, Ober Lapac, Kulru Vakuf, Bjelai, Pretrovac (No. 11).
13. Kuin, Sinj, Livno, Kupers, Bugojno, Skoplje (D Vakuf), Travnik (No. 6).
13A. Kuin, Sinj, Livno, Kupers, Bugojno, Gomje (G Vakuf), Fojnica, Kiseljak (No. 5).
14. Ragusa, Klek, Metkovic, Mostar (No. 15), Konjica, Bosna-Seraï.
15A. Ragusa, Trebinjé, Ljubinje, Stolac, Mostar.
15B. Ragusa, Trebinjé, Bilra, Stolac, Mostar.
15. Ragusa, Trebinjé, Bilra, Gacko (Metokia), (No. 16), Nevesinje, Moster (No. 14).
16. Nichsich, Dooga Pass, Gacko (Metokia), (No. 15), Foca, Gomzda, Bosna-Seraï.
17. Novi-Bazaar, Sjenica, Prjepolje, Visegrad, Rogatica, Hangrod Romanja (No. 18), Bosna-Seraï.
18. Ljubovija, Srebeenica, Novi Kasala, Vlasenica, Hangrod Romanja (No. 17), Bosna-Seraï.

Inclosure 3 in No. 205.

Bosnia, Route No. 5.

Brood to Bosna-Seraï.—Distance, 131 English Miles.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate, in Furlongs.	
Brood	..	..	A small Turkish village and Customs station opposite the Austrian town of the same name, on the Save, which is crossed by a ferry. The road follows the bank of the Save; very bad. The soft soil is being constantly washed away, and in the absence of all metalling materials, brushwood is used for the repair of the road.
Sirkovac	2 m. 2⅞ fur.	18·72	The road turns south, and passing through a wooded country gradually improves. The streams are crossed by small wooden culverts, but they are in such a state that carts usually avoid them. During heavy rains or winter these numerous watercourses would make travelling difficult for wheeled conveyance. As Dervent is approached the ground becomes more open and cultivated.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate, in Furlongs.	
Dervent	11 m. 5⅝ fur.	74·9	A small town at beginning of high ground overlooking the Posavina, at junction of the roads from (Route 5A) Penjavor and Kobas, the residence of a Kaimakan. There is a small barrack outside the town near the Ukrina River. On leaving Dervent the road leads up and down hill through a partly-wooded country. It is in good order, and there is usually a belt of open ground on either side, but this being covered with brushwood would be useless to infantry on the march, this affording excellent halting places.
Han Modran	19 m. 7 fur.	65·54	Some wretched cottages cluster near Han Modran. The country round is mostly under cultivation, the fields being inclosed by hurdle-fences. About two miles to the left there is seen a church. The road continues through a broken, uncultivated country covered with scrub, affording excellent covers to robbers, who are reported occasionally to frequent this district.
Foca	25 m. 1½ fur.	42·13	Leaving the church and village of Foca a little to the right the road begins to descend to the valley of the Bosna. On reaching the level the road from Kotorska (Route 4) comes in on the left, and a little further on the Han Osmanicin is passed. The country along the valley of the Bosna, which here runs between low hills some mile or so apart, is under cultivation. The road is bordered by posts and rails, ditches, and willows. The latter are allowed to grow very thick in parts, and the country generally is very much inclosed by hedges. The road is very much cut up, and after passing Bukovica it is carried alongside of wooded hills, which here close in on the Bosna.
Han Osmanicin	29 m. 2 fur.	32·77	
Bukovica	32 m. 6¼ fur.	28·20	
Doboj	36 m. 0¼ fur.	28·08	Above the junction of this river with the Spreca stands the old castle of Doboj, below which is the town. Doboj is a point of some importance as commanding the roads to Brood, Tesanj, and Bosna-Seraï. The castle has been allowed to fall in ruins, and though the residence of a Mudir the town presents a very poor appearance.
Usora Bridge	38 m. 5 fur.	18·72	The road passes through a rich cultivated valley to the bridge across the Usora, a long wooden bridge in good repair, but which must be difficult of approach in wet seasons owing to low ground on south bank of Usora. The road to Tesanj (Route No. 5 B) turns to right up the Usora valley. The nature of the country now begins to change; the valley of the Bosna narrows, and rocks occasionally show through the wooded sides. Cultivation is confined to narrow patches along the river's banks.
Han Schawarli	42 m. 1 fur.	28·08	After passing the wretched Han Schawarli, frequented by the carters and packmen, the road from Gracanica (Route No. 3 A) is seen on the opposite bank, and the two roads run parallel to Maglaj, which stands on the right bank of the Bosna under overhanging hills. The police-station and han are on left bank. Another river is crossed by ferry by those visiting Maglaj. It is the residence of a Kaimakam.
Maglaj	50 m. 2⅝ fur.	65·54	Leaving the Bosna the fertile Lisnica polje is entered by crossing a stone bridge. The polje is very much cut up by hedges and copses. The road, which from Schawarli has been a good metalled one, ascends gradually till within some two miles of Zepce, when it reaches the head of the Lisnica polje and descends rapidly over a very bad track to the valley of the Bosna.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate, in Furlongs.	
Zepče	59 m. 5½ fur.	74·9	Zepče is a clean, busy town, the residence of a Kaïmakam, and the best between Brood and Bosna-Serai. From Zepče to Vranduk the road follows the left bank of the Bosna, through a wild narrow valley with steep wooded sides. The road is bad and very much in need of constant repairs, being in places carried on supports along face of hills liable to be washed away after heavy rain.
Vranduk	73 m. 5½ fur.	112·35	Vranduk is a mountain village on rock jutting out into the Bosna, which here bends considerably. An old castle stands on rock, completely commanding the road up and down the valley. The road is carried up to this castle, high above the river, and in former times Vranduk must have been a place of great strength. Like many other strongholds in Bosnia, it is, however, completely overlooked by higher ground within rifle range. The road descends to the valley, and is in very fair order for the remainder of its course along the Bosna valley, which gradually opens out into the Zenica plain.
Zenica Road	81 m. 7½ fur.	65·54	On entering this the road skirts the foot of a low open hill, and half mile from Zenica (Route 6c) turns to the right* and begins the sharp ascent of the hills dividing the Bosna and Travnik valleys. The road is good, except in parts where a little work would soon smooth it, and the summit of the Pass (1,196 ft. above Zenica) is reached by a zigzag through cultivated ground.
Top of pass (2,278 ft.) ..	85 m. 3½ fur.	29·08	The easy descent into the Travnik valley begins at once. Passing some wild open country, the Han Compagnielli marks the bifurcation of the road (cross) to Travnik and Bosna-Serai.† The latter follows the left bank of the Lasva through wild broken ground, and crosses the river by a new wooden bridge just before its junction with the Kositka.
Han Compagnielli ..	87 m. 6½ fur.	18·72	
Lasva Bridge	91 m. 2½ fur.	28·08	
Travnik Road	92 m. 3½ fur.	9·36	Following the Kositca the Travnik main road is entered, and soon after, the dirty town of Busovaca, the residence of a Kaïmakam (Route No. 6.)
Busovaca	93 m. 5 fur.	9·36	A good road leads up the Kositca valley through wooded undulating country; there are few houses till the Han Belalovac is reached, when the road begins to descend gradually through open country to a small hamlet at junction of the Poinica and Mlava streams, the former being crossed by a new wooden bridge. A carriage road leads to Poinica (Route No. 13 A).
Han Belalovac	100 m. 5½ fur.	56·17	
Fojnicka Krupri	107 m. 5½ fur.	56·17	
Kiseljak	110 m.	18·72	The main road now runs through a cultivated valley bordered by low wooded hills. Kiseljak, a spa and summer resort of the Jews from Bosna-Serai, is passed, when there are several large towns and a camping ground alongside of the Lepenica. As the head of the valley is reached the hills close in, the country becomes wilder, and after passing the Han Malin a short ascent brings the road to top of ridge dividing the Lepenica from Bosna valleys. A Karanla or blockhouse which marks the summit, has been placed there for protection of travellers, the ridge being covered by brushwood.
Han Malin	114 m. 5½ fur.	37·45	
Karanla	117 m. ½ fur.	18·72	

* Instead of turning to the right at Zenica, by passing through the town and continuing up the Bosna valley, Bosna-Serai might be reached viâ Visoka (Route No. 5 c). This route though shorter is rarely followed by carts, as it is not in such good repair as the post road.

† In Austrian map (~~1:200,000~~ 1876), the old road on right bank is shown; this is wrong, the old bridge stood higher up than the new one. It is destroyed.

Name.	Distances.		Remarks.
	Total in English Miles.	Intermediate, in Furlongs.	
Mostar Road	120 m. 4½ fur.	28·08	Road descends till its junction with Mostar road (Route No. 14) when the plain of Bosna-Serai is entered. This plain (8 miles long by 6 wide) is cultivated, with hamlets scattered here and there, it is much cut up by streams, some of which run in deep beds with their banks covered with willows. During the summer all are fordable, though the steep banks make them in places impassable. The high road is marked by fences and hedges, the metalling is some 30 ft. wide, and between fences there is generally some 60 ft. clear. The plain is generally well provided with roads and tracks, but the latter must be often impassable.
Bosna Bridge	124 m. 0½ fur.	28·08	The main road crosses the Bosna by a long bridge partly stone and partly wood; further on there is another bridge near Ilidge, and the Miljacka is crossed by a wooden bridge with a ford alongside.
Ilidge Bridge	125 m. 1½ fur.	9·36	
Miljacka Bridge	126 m. 2½ fur.	18·72	
Bosna-Serai	131 m. 0½ fur.	28·08	Before entering Bosna-Serai the fine military hospital is passed, and a little further on is the new military school. Bosna-Serai is situated at head of plain at the point where the Miljacka issues from a mountain gorge. The old town with a small fort overlooks the modern town from the east. Owing to the number of gardens the town covers a very large extent of ground on both sides of the Miljacka, which is crossed by three stone bridges passable for carts, one wooden carriage bridge, and three smaller foot bridges. The chief buildings are the konak (Government offices), bells, civil hospital, and new Greek church. There are numerous mosques and some large private houses.

The above is compiled from Austrian staff map 1876 (~~1:200,000~~) and from observations taken on a journey performed in three days in a cart with three horses. The same horses came through without change.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Vice-Consul in Bosnia.*

Bosna-Serai, August 3, 1877.

No. 206.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 14.)

(No. 72. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, August 2, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that his Excellency Mohzar Pasha stated to me yesterday that he had received reliable information from Dalmatia of certain proceedings indicating an approaching occupation of this province by Austria. Amongst other preparatory measures 1,500 packsaddles had been lately sent up to Metkovich; two small ship-loads of horse-shoes and nails had been landed at Spalato; water-barrels had been collected at different points in considerable numbers; and houses had been rented along the frontier and stored with provisions. His Excellency's informant also affirmed that orders had been issued for the mobilization of the Dalmatian reserve force in eight days.

Mohzar Pasha likewise told me that the Austrian Vice-Consul at Trebinje had lately informed the Liva Suleiman Pasha that, should the Montenegrins succeed in reducing Nicksich, Austrian troops would immediately occupy the Herzegovina to prevent their further advance.

His Excellency had also received intelligence that 2,700 rifles had lately been distributed in Dalmatia to the Bosnian insurgents. This could hardly have been effected without the knowledge or connivance of the authorities, and, therefore, if true, would rather seem to contradict the assertion that preparations are being made

for an occupation of this province, as by assisting the insurgents Austria would only render the future task of pacification more difficult, unless indeed she thinks by giving a fresh impulse to the insurrection to have a better excuse for interference.

I asked the Governor-General what he intended to do should Austrian troops in reality cross the frontier; and he replied that, having received no contrary instructions from Constantinople, he should consider it his duty to oppose their entry by force. I replied that the diminished regular force now in Bosnia could offer but a feeble resistance, and that I doubted the native Mussulmans showing much readiness to forcibly oppose an Austrian occupation. His Excellency, however, seemed to think that not only the Mussulmans but also the Christians of the Orthodox faith would, in such an eventuality, be found willing to bear arms in defence of their country, but myself, I believe him to be egregiously mistaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 207.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 209. Political.)
Bucharest, August 7, 1877.

My Lord,

SOME details concerning the organization of Bulgaria under the auspices of Prince Tcherkasky have come to my knowledge, and they may, perhaps, be of interest to your Lordship.

The province will be divided into sandjaks; each sandjak is to have a Governor, Vice-Governor, and a Committee for Finance.

The nominations for the three sandjaks, already in the occupation of the Russian forces, are as follows:—

Sistova: Governor, M. Gheroff, a Bulgarian lately settled at Philippopoli; Vice-Governor, M. Zankoff, late Bulgarian Delegate, who visited London in the autumn; Principal Councellor for Finance, M. Stoianoff, from Sophia.

Tirnova: Governor, General Mantouch, of the Russian staff; Vice-Governor, M. Balabanoff, second Bulgarian Delegate who visited London together with M. Zankoff.

For the portion of the Sandjak of Rustchuk, occupied by the Russians, Colonel Zoloteroff, of the Russian staff; Vice-Governor, M. Daskaloff, a Bulgarian from Tirnova.

It is officially announced in the most emphatic manner, that the nomination of any functionaries other than Bulgarians is merely of the most temporary character.

It would appear that the Russian authorities are little satisfied with the demeanour of the Christian population in Bulgaria, and the monstrous excesses perpetrated by the latter on the Mussulman portion of the population is a cause of serious embarrassment.

It is reported that in the districts in the neighbourhood of Matchin, in the Dobrudcha, inhabited by Wallachians, the latter complain much of the oppression and extortions of the recently installed Russo-Bulgarian authorities, drawing an unfavourable comparison with the rule of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 208.

Mr. Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 35.)
Tunis, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that three Turkish transports arrived yesterday to embark the horses and mules, 980 in number, which the Porte has desired his Highness the Bey to send for the use of the Turkish armies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 209.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 14.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 13 Août, 1877.

UN télégramme de son Excellence Osman Pacha, daté de Plevna le $\frac{22 \text{ Juillet}}{10 \text{ Août}}$, nous signale l'odieux traitement infligé par l'autorité militaire Russe à un soldat Ottoman fait prisonnier. Ce soldat, nommé Youssouf, originaire de Tirnovo, fut interrogé à plusieurs reprises sur le Commandant et les forces du corps d'armée dont il faisait partie. Ayant persisté à répondre qu'il n'en savait rien, il fut battu, dépouillé de tous ses vêtements, et complètement enduit de goudron. Dans cet état il fut exposé debout au soleil pendant trois jours, sans recevoir aucune nourriture; il fut menacé d'être brûlé vif, et les sentinelles qui le gardaient ne cessaient de le maltraiter. Le malheureux, s'étant ensuite échappé, s'est présenté au Quartier-Général Ottoman, et a raconté lui-même à Osman Pacha les faits qui précèdent. Le Général a vu de ses propres yeux le corps de Youssouf couvert de goudron de la tête aux pieds.

C'est ainsi que notre ennemi observe les lois de l'humanité et les principes du droit des gens, tandis que dans l'armée Ottomane les prisonniers Russes sont traités avec tous les égards qu'exigent les lois de la guerre.

No. 210.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(No. 346.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 13, 1877, 6 P.M.

CONSUL at Adrianople telegraphs as follows:—

"Suleiman Pasha telegraphs that he has occupied the village of Ferditch, and that he and his vanguard are in possession of the southern outlet of the Ferditch defile, from which the Russians have retired.

No. 211.

Consul Sanderson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
Galatz, August 14, 1877.

SEVENTH corps d'armée continues to pass.

British Vice-Consul at Ibraila reports Russian force in the Dobrudja beginning to return.

No. 212.

Consul-General Fawcett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 14.)

(Telegraphic.)
Pera, August 13, 1877.

MR. BOURKE pronounced in House of Commons Turkish blockade of Russian Black Sea Ports inefficient. Deputation of merchants here inquire if on that authority they can dispatch their vessels to Russian ports. Request instructions.

No. 213.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(No. 61.)
Foreign Office, August 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 103 of the 4th ultimo, forwarding copies of correspondence which has passed between yourself and the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, relating to the recent incursion of Persian Koords into Turkish territory, and their participation in the plundering of several Christian villages, and

I have to convey to you my approval of the representations which you have addressed to the Persian authorities on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 214.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Taylour Thomson.

(No. 62.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 102 of the 4th ultimo, giving an account of your interview with the Shah on the 3rd of July, and of the observations which you addressed to His Majesty on the subject of the attitude of Persia during the present Turco-Russian war, and I have to state to you that I approve those observations as embodied in the memorandum, copy of which is inclosed in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 215.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 428.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 871 of the 31st ultimo, forwarding reports from Vice-Consul Dalziel relative to excesses committed by the Circassians at Kavarna and other Christian villages, and I have to request that you will convey to Mr. Dalziel my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 216.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 430.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 855 of the 28th ultimo, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having directed Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" to proceed to Bourgas in consequence of a report having been received from the Austrian Vice-Consul at that port stating that the Christian inhabitants were in danger on account of the presence of Albanian refugees from the Dobrudja.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 217.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 431.) *Foreign Office, August* 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 866 of the 31st ultimo, forwarding copies of reports from Mr. Consul Reade and Vice-Consul Dalziel respecting outrages committed by Circassians in the Christian villages on the west coast of the Black Sea, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your calling the attention of the Porte to these proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 218.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 888. Secret.) *Therapia, August* 3, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE reason to suspect, from information which reaches me from a trustworthy source, that the Hellenic Government is disposed to find occasion for picking a quarrel with the Porte, of which it may avail itself whenever a favourable moment occurs for commencing hostilities against Turkey. I have already had occasion to mention to your Lordship the change that I have perceived of late in M. Condouriotis' language and bearing towards the Turkish Government. The rapid progress made by the Russians in Bulgaria, and especially their appearance on this side of the Balkans, have greatly excited the Greeks, whether Hellenic or Ottoman subjects. They think that the moment is near when they must strike in order to obtain their share in the anticipated spoils of the Turkish Empire. On this account the Hellenic Government wishes, no doubt, to be able at any moment to break off its relations with the Porte on a colourable pretext, by which it may endeavour to justify itself in the eyes of Europe in attacking its neighbour.

The affair of Philon has been settled because the Porte gave way; but had the Turkish Government refused to accept the Hellenic demands M. Tricoupi, it appears from Mr. Stuart's despatch to your Lordship No. 170 of the 27th ultimo, was prepared to break off diplomatic relations with Turkey. M. Condouriotis has informed me that should any Hellenic subject have been killed during the plunder by Circassians of Kavarna, or any other villages, his Government will demand full indemnity. This morning he brought me an angry telegram from M. Tricoupi directing him to protest formally to the Porte against the stoppage of Greek newspapers and the opening of letters sent to Greeks through the post in Crete as a violation of international law and right. M. Condouriotis requested me to support his representations at the Porte. I had three reasons for declining to do so. In the first place I have no wish, after what has occurred in the Vouros question, to mix myself up again in M. Condouriotis' affairs; secondly, I am not acquainted with any international law or international obligations between Turkey and Greece which authorizes such a protest as he has been instructed to make; and, thirdly, I cannot help suspecting that M. Condouriotis, in asking me to back him, wishes to make it appear, in case this matter leads to a rupture, that I had taken the same view of it as the Hellenic Government.

I have reason to believe that the German Embassy here is not indisposed to encourage misunderstandings between the Hellenic Government and the Porte, and that it would not be sorry to see a rupture and the commencement of hostilities between them. I have learnt from a very confidential source that two days ago Prince Reuss told M. Condouriotis that he had learnt that Austria was about to occupy Bosnia and Herzegovina, and hinted that the time was come for the Greeks to consider their own interests in other parts of Turkey in Europe. M. Condouriotis telegraphed this to Athens. The Greeks are led to believe that they are now to look to Germany for support in carrying out their national policy at the expense of Turkey, and amongst the many rumours current in Constantinople is one that the German fleet is going to the Piræus to protect Greece against an attack from Turkey or any other Power should she commence hostilities and send her army and irregular bands across the Turkish frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 219.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 61. Political.) *Erzeroom, July* 26, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 97 of the 1st instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, I gave a general sketch of the action at Injeh-Soo on the 10th of June, in which the Russians were defeated, and also of the subsequent atrocious conduct of the Koords. I have now the honour to lay before your Lordship details

which will give to the Bayazid tragedy a prominent place in the blackest page of history.

On the 19th of June, the Russian corps holding Bayazid, consisting of about 1,900 infantry and 600 horse, was defeated at Tujeh-Soo, and the Colonel commanding was mortally wounded. The Russians, though beaten, appear to have retired in such order that only 100 men fell prisoners to the Turks; about half of the infantry, with the cavalry, fell back on Bayazid; the others fled across the frontier.

The troops that sought refuge in Bayazid were closely pursued by the Koords. The cavalry, not being able to reach the chateau, and being unprotected, were slaughtered in or near the town. The infantry reached the chateau, an old and very strong building on an eminence which had been changed into barracks by the Turks, and there prepared to defend themselves.

It is said that the Colonel commanding the Russians had brought his wife to Bayazid, and that, after his death, which occurred a few hours after he was brought back, this brave woman assumed the command of the men in the chateau.

The chateau was immediately invested by the Koords, but as its position is very commanding, no attempt to escalade was made. Faik Pasha, with his 7 battalions, remained in the plain at a short distance from the town. The Koords surrounding the chateau belonged to Sheikh Jelaledin, and numbered 19,000 foot, and 6,000 horse.

Finding they could not carry the chateau by assault, the Koords, having discovered the spring which supplied it with water, succeeded in cutting it off; and, on the fourth day after their entry, the position of the Russians becoming desperate, the white flag was hoisted. At the same time about 250 men, with a white flag borne before them, left the chateau unarmed, and proceeded towards the Turkish camp. Faik Pasha, on seeing the white flags, came forward immediately with his battalions; but, before he could reach the advancing Russians, the Koords fell on them and slaughtered them to a man. This act of blackest treachery seems to have whetted the lust for carnage of the Koords, who then proceeded to the bazaars, and commenced plundering all the shops, whether of Christian or Mussulman, and slaughtering the Christians they met.

The shops having been gutted were set fire to, and in a short time the bazaar was burnt down.

From the shops the Koords went to the houses of the Christians, and there the carnage must have been fearful. An officer who visited the town a few days afterwards told me yesterday that in every house he entered he saw two, three, and four bodies of men, women, and children, all stripped naked, and some placed by the murderers after death in horrible positions of indecency.

There were 165 Christian houses in Bayazid; placing the inmates of each house at the moderate computation of five, this would give 825 souls; probably there were 1,000. How many of these escaped it is impossible to say. As, however, the town was surrounded by Koords, I apprehend but few saved their lives by flight. It is reported that 400 fell victims: but as no one has counted them, the number is a mere supposition. The officer I have mentioned told me that it was impossible to remain long in the town, the stench from decomposing bodies was so great; and though he was very anxious to arrive, from personal observation, at some definite conclusion, he could not do so, the effluvia being so bad.

Many of the houses were also set on fire.

The tragedy witnessed by the Russians in the chateau must have at once convinced them that safety by surrender was beyond their reach; the Russian flag was again hoisted, and efforts were made to obtain water. To effect this they made an underground passage to a spring at the foot of the eminence, and by it they obtained, but at great cost and almost daily loss of men, a small supply.

The prisoners taken during the action of the 19th were sent to Van; on their way thither they were all stripped to their shirts by the Koords, who also maltreated them.

The château was after the massacre invested by four battalions, with three guns.

The battalions were:—

The 2nd of the 6th Regiment of Nizam; the 3rd of the 2nd Regiment of Nizam; the Jezireh battalion of Rediff; and another Rediff battalion.

Between the 6th and the 9th instants, Ismail Pasha, who had come near Bayazid with his division, rode over to Faik Pasha's camp, to try and induce the Russians to lay down their arms.

A message to the following effect was sent by a corporal who volunteered to carry it:—

That as they, the Russians, could hope for no relief, and must very soon die of

starvation, he, Ismail Pasha, invited them to surrender, and he promised that they would be kindly received and humanely treated.

The corporal was permitted to approach the château and give his message.

In reply the corporal was told to state to Ismail Pasha that, as the garrison had heard how the soldiers made prisoners had been treated; that, as they had seen how the unarmed men who went out of the chateau to give themselves up had been slaughtered, and how the Christians had been massacred, they could never put faith in the word of a Turk, and preferred dying by starvation to trusting themselves to the honour of those who had covered themselves with dishonour.

This reply, it is said, affected Ismail Pasha deeply, and he sent a second message, but the corporal who again volunteered was not permitted to approach the chateau.

His efforts proving unsuccessful, Ismail Pasha returned to his own camp.

On the 9th or 10th instant a deserter from the column of General Derkonkasoff was brought to him. This man stated that a column consisting of four battalions of infantry, with 12 guns and 4,000 horse, had been told off to march that night to the relief of the Russians in Bayazid.

Ismail Pasha, doubting the information, did not act at once, but, after midnight, ordered Shahin Pasha's brigade of six battalions and Hakki Bey's brigade of seven battalions to be ready to move.

At dawn the following morning the Russian infantry and artillery attacked the four battalions at Bayazid, and the cavalry, sweeping round by the left, got to the chateau and liberated the garrison, carrying away with them the sick and all the war material stored there.

The action had hardly commenced when the Kurds threw down their breechloading arms supplied by the Government and fled.

The brigades of Shahin Pasha and Hakki Bey came into the plain near Bayazid about noon. They did not take part in the action, but tried to cut off the cavalry and the Russians from the chateau. Not succeeding in this they retired out of range of the Russian artillery.

The fight lasted till night, when the Turks were beaten back, leaving one company of the 3rd battalion of the 2nd regiment of Nizam and two companies of the Djezireh battalion, with three field guns, in the hands of the Russians.

The remaining six companies of the Djezireh battalion deserted during the night.

Of the loss in killed and wounded I have not been able to get an estimate. It must have been heavy, for the fight lasted over twelve hours.

The town of Bayazid is now quite deserted, and Ismail Pasha was nine days since trying to induce some Kurds to bury the dead by promising a reward of 10 piastres for each body buried.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

No. 220.

Consul Zohrab to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 62. Political.)

Erzeroom, July 30, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a note I have just received from Captain H. McCalmont, dated Bayazid, 21st July, confirming in a few words my reports on the atrocities perpetrated by the Koords in that town.

I hear that Ismail Pasha, who now commands the corps operating in the neighbourhood of Bayazid, is endeavouring to shield the Koords, by stating that the ruin of Bayazid was effected not by them but by the fire of the Russians shut up in the château. Sheikh Jelaleddin, who was the chief mover in the massacres, was, I am told, well received afterwards by Ismail Pasha.

At this I am not surprised, as his Excellency is himself a Koord, and his relations are notorious bandits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAS. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Extract from a Letter from Captain H. McCalmont.

Bayazid, July 21, 1877.

WE visited Bayazid yesterday. It is a scene of awful desolation; hardly a house that has not been wrecked, burnt, or pillaged by the Koords. Dead bodies lying about, and any amount of horrors.

No. 221.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 38. Political.)

Trebizond, July 27, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 51 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter, dated 25th instant, from Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, on the subject of the public security in the district of Samsoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Samsoon, le 25 *Juillet*, 1877.

M. le Vice-Consul,

J'AI reçu la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 20 de ce mois, par laquelle vous avez bien voulu me faire savoir que vous aviez transmis à l'Ambassade et au Ministère les faits que je vous avais rapportés, et intéressant la sécurité publique dans ce pays.

Depuis lors, rien de sérieux, que je sache, n'a été tenté pour s'emparer des malfaiteurs qui causent les désordres dont il s'agit. On dit seulement que le Vali de Sivas, ému des meurtres dont ont été victimes diverses personnes établies dans sa circonspection, soit se rendant à Samsoon, soit en partant de ce point pour se rendre chez elles, aurait organisé un corps de gendarmerie sous le commandement d'un ancien bandit détenu dans la prison de Sivas, et destiné à purger le pays de tous les malfaiteurs qui l'infestent. Promesse aurait été faite au susdit bandit de lui donner sa grace, s'il parvenait à obtenir le résultat dont je viens de parler.

Mais celà, comme je l'ai dit, n'est qu'un bruit, et qui ne me semble pas mériter grande créance.

En attendant, les inconvénients résultant de la présence dans les environs de la bande de brigands dont il s'agit restent toujours aussi grande que par le passé; c'est-à-dire que les habitants des campagnes vivent dans la crainte continuelle pour leurs biens et leurs vies même; que ceux des villes n'osent aller dans les campagnes, bien que beaucoup d'entr'eux y sont appelés par de très sérieux intérêts, &c.

Quant à la sécurité de la ville de Samsoon, et même des autres villes du sandjak, je ne la crois pas sérieusement compromise, et je pense que leurs populations se sont beaucoup exagéré les dangers que pouvaient bien faire courir les menaces d'incendie, et autres actes de violence, faites par le bandit Hadji Joussouf, dans des écrits qu'il a adressés à divers personnages, et au Gouverneur lui-même, afin de se faire rendre sa famille et de pouvoir se mettre avec elle à l'abri des atteintes de la justice.

En effet, j'ai pu m'assurer que la ville est assez bien gardée pendant la nuit pour rendre très difficile et fort dangereuse pour ceux qui seraient tentés de les commettre, des actes de nature à entraîner de grands désordres. Et j'ai tout lieu de croire que les autres villes du district qui sont menacées, notamment Baifra, ne sont pas moins bien protégées que Samsoon contre ces menaces.

Cette protection, qui n'est pas nouvelle du reste, est obtenue au moyen de Moustahfiz organisés en gendarmerie. Cette organisation laisse, il est vrai, beaucoup à désirer, par exemple sous le rapport de l'armement, mais enfin telle qu'elle est ce n'en est pas moins une force imposante, et en tous cas une surveillance précieuse.

Le danger sérieux n'est pas au dedans, mais bien au dehors; et là je ne vois pas que l'autorité prenne des mesures pour conjurer efficacement ce danger. Le Pacha lui-même, à la tête de quelques zaptiés, a, dans ces derniers temps, fait une tournée dans ce but; mais elle n'a eu qu'un résultat dérisoire; car c'est pendant qu'elle s'effectuait du côté de Baffra, où la présence de Hadji Joussouf et de la bande avait été signalée, que ces malfaiteurs assassinaient six ou sept personnes sur la route d'Anissia.

Espérons que grace aux démarches que voudront bien faire les Ambassades à Constantinople, des ordres sevères seront envoyés par la Porte à l'autorité territoriale pour que celle-ci prenne enfin des mesures sérieuses pour extirper du pays le mal dont nous nous entretenons.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) N. DOULCET.

No. 222.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 39. Political.)

Trebizond, July 27, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a notorious outlaw, named Tsepui Ali, a native of the district of Rizeh, who obtained his pardon from the Sultan on the condition of entering the ranks with a number of volunteers recruited by him, arrived here in the course of last week to make his submission to the Governor-General of this province.

He was accompanied by a few of his followers, of whom about 400 are ready at Rizeh.

He landed with colours flying and embarked a few days ago in the same style, but with more pomp, being accompanied by a numerous crowd, to rejoin his men and proceed to Batoum.

Tsepui Ali was some twenty years ago condemned to death for murder, and the sentence was about to be carried out in this town, when, at the urgent request of the inhabitants, one of the female relatives of the victim pardoned him.

A sum of 5,000 piastres was raised by subscription by the Trebizondes in her favour, but Tsepui Ali had nevertheless to undergo fifteen years of hard labour.

He managed to escape twice in a year, and in spite of all exertions on the part of the authorities was never captured.

He led since that time the life of an outlaw, committing highway robberies, but murdering no one until a year ago, when his hand having killed three Christian travellers, as reported in my despatch to your Lordship No. 8, Political, of the 23rd June, 1876, his head was put at price.

I must add, however, on his behalf that he was not himself the perpetrator of these murders, which were committed only after one of his sons had been shot by the travellers in question, and that he even tried, but in vain, to save the life of one of the latter.

I understand that the numerous prisoners who are detained in the Bagnio of Synope are to be conveyed to and incorporated in the ranks of the irregulars at Batoum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 223.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 896.) *Therapia, August* 6, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the instructions which I have given to Mr. Rassam for his direction in the performance of the mission entrusted to him, and which, I trust, will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 223.

Mr. Layard to Mr. Rassam.

Therapia, August 6, 1877.

Sir,

YOU will proceed by the steamer leaving Constantinople on Wednesday next to Alexandretta and from there to Diarbekir. The object of your mission is to ascertain the condition of the Christian tribes and communities in Kurdistan, and to report to me fully upon it, for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

There is reason to believe that the Nestorians in the mountain districts of Turkish Kurdistan are again threatened by the Kurds, and that unless some measures be taken for their protection, they will be exposed to invasion and to its lamentable consequences. The Porte has, on my representations, sent instructions on this subject to the Vali of Diarbekir. You will ascertain whether his Excellency has done anything in the matter, and whether the threatened danger has been avoided. If you should find it necessary to proceed to the Nestorian to make enquiries on the spot, you are authorized to do so and to take any steps which you properly can for the protection of their inhabitants in communication with the Turkish authorities, with whom you will endeavour to maintain a good understanding. Your intimate acquaintance and influence with the heads of the Nestorian community will enable you to advise and direct them, and to contribute to the establishment of friendly relations between them and their Mussulman rulers.

It would appear that Kurdish tribes belonging to Persia as well as to Turkey have recently committed great excesses in the Pashalik of Van, especially upon the Armenian population. You may be able to learn at Diarbekir how far the reports that have reached me as to the great destruction of Christian life and property by these marauders are well founded; but if you think it necessary, you may visit Van, Bitlis, Moush, and other places to obtain full information. You have been furnished with letters to the Armenian Bishops and notables by their Patriarchal representative at Constantinople, which will enable you to ascertain upon trustworthy authority what has really taken place. You will report to me fully on the subject, as well as upon the conduct of those whose duty it was to protect the populations from the outrages to which they appear to have been exposed.

After you have fulfilled your mission in Kurdistan you will proceed to Mosul, where you are to resume the Assyrian excavations for the Trustees of the British Museum. When there you will inquire and report to me on the condition of the Jacobite or Syrian Christians, and you will let me know whether the Firman issued by the Porte for the restoration to them of their churches has been put into execution, and what other measures may be required for the protection of this ancient sect.

You will bring to the notice of the Turkish authorities the grievances and wrongs from which the Christian communities, into whose condition it will be your duty to inquire, may suffer, and you will endeavour to obtain for them proper protection and redress. You will, however, be specially careful in performing your mission not to excite the suspicions or jealousy of those authorities, or to furnish any legitimate cause of complaint to them against you. You will endeavour to make them understand that it in the interests of Turkey herself that the various Christian populations under the Sultan's rule should be justly governed, and should receive the fullest protection for their lives and property. Such is the humane and enlightened wish expressed to me by the Sultan himself. In calling the attention of the Turkish Government in a friendly and impartial spirit to the wrongs and complaints of His Majesty's Christian subjects, Her Majesty's Government is giving a proof of its earnest desire for the welfare of Turkey.

I transmit to you an Imperial Firman and four Vizirial letters, in which you are

No. 223*.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 898.) *Therapia, August* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram, No. 330 of the 4th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of the Porte's reply to my inquiries as to the efficiency of the blockade of the Russian ports in the Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 223*.

Memorandum.

Sublime Porte, le 4 Août, 1877.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a reçu le Memorandum que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 18 Juillet, relativement au blocus du littoral Russe de la Mer Noire. Déjà en réponse à une précédente communication sur le même sujet le Ministère Impérial avait eu l'honneur de faire connaître à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, les raisons pour lesquelles le caractère effectif de ce blocus ne saurait être altéré par le fait seul que le cabotage avait pu être exercé entre certains points du littoral Russe en dedans de la ligne de blocus. La Déclaration de Paris exige pour que le blocus soit considéré comme effectif la présence de forces suffisantes pour empêcher l'accès du territoire ennemi aux navires venant du large. Elle n'y met pas pour condition l'interruption absolue de la navigation côtière. Cette condition serait d'ailleurs sans objet, puisque le point essentiel pour les neutres est qu'ils soient assurés que l'accès du littoral est réellement interdit aux navires venant du large et que réciproquement l'accès de la haute mer est efficacement interdit aux navires qui se trouvent sur la côte.

Cette observation, sur laquelle la Sublime Porte est convaincu de se trouver en parfaite communauté d'idées avec l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, rend superflue toute considération sur la rareté des apparitions des vaisseaux Ottomans devant Odessa, aussi bien que sur le peu de valeur de l'argument qu'on essaye de tirer de ce que la navigation entre Odessa et Nicolaieff n'a pas été entièrement interrompue. Ces faits, en les supposant vrais, ne peuvent en aucune façon enlever le caractère effectif au blocus par croisière établi conformément à la lettre et à l'esprit de la Déclaration de Paris.

Le Memorandum précité porte en outre que des vaisseaux Grecs ont reçu du Gouvernement des permis qui les mettent à même de communiquer librement avec les ports Russes et que par ce procédé la marine marchande Anglaise se trouve placée dans une position très désavantageuse.

Vérification faite, il a été reconnu qu'en effet un ou deux permis ont été délivrés à des navires sous pavillon Hellénique. La délivrance de ces permis ayant été irrégulière et aucune décision dans ce sens n'ayant été prise, le Ministère Impérial croit inutile de rechercher si la Sublime Porte, par le fait même qu'elle a le droit de lever entièrement le blocus, n'aurait pas la faculté, dans certaines circonstances, de permettre à des navires, destinés à des services spéciaux, de franchir la ligne du blocus à titre exceptionnel. Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères prie seulement l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique de vouloir bien prendre en considération que le fait même que les navires, auxquels il est fait allusion, n'ont pu se mettre en route avant de s'être munis de permis spéciaux, tend à prouver que le blocus exercé par la marine Impériale a bien réellement un caractère effectif. Il ne reste plus dès lors qu'à donner l'assurance que les mesures nécessaires ont été prises pour que l'irrégularité signalée ne se renouvelle plus et que d'ailleurs il n'a pu et il ne pourrait jamais être question d'une préférence quelconque à accorder à un pavillon à l'exclusion des autres pavillons.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères aime à croire que les explications qui précèdent dissiperont les doutes qu'ont pu faire naître certains faits mal compris et mal appréciés, et que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, dans son esprit de justice et d'impartialité, voudra bien reconnaître le caractère effectif du blocus des côtes Russes de la Mer Noire par les escadres Ottomanes.

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warmly recommended to the authorities, and which will enable you, I trust, to discharge your mission to the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government.

In conclusion I have to impress upon you strongly the importance of obtaining, as far as possible, trustworthy information, and to avoid accepting as such those exaggerated and frequently unfounded rumours which invariably prevail when excesses such as those into which you are about to inquire have been committed, or great alarms and panics exist. Your knowledge of the country and people will, no doubt, enable you to distinguish between what is true and what is not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 224.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 899.) *Therapia, August* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, with copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert inclosed, relating to the Bulgarians at Philippopoli.

Your Lordship will perceive that Mr. Calvert states that some of the Bulgarian prisoners who were in that town were released under the Sultan's amnesty. A few amongst them have been, however, again arrested on the charge of being concerned in exciting the Bulgarians to rebellion anew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 224.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a duplicate copy of Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert's report of the 25th ultimo, relative to the state of affairs in the town and district of Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 224.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, July 25, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in virtue of the state of siege proclaimed here three days ago, eleven arrests have been made, in this town, of Bulgarians, most of whom were imprisoned in connection with the troubles of last year, but had been subsequently released.

They will be tried, after examination and translation of the documents found in their possession, by a military tribunal, presided over by Safvet Pasha, who was recently sent hither for that purpose by the Porte.

In reply to my enquiries, I have been assured by the Mutessarif that these arrests have not been made on account of last year's revolt, most of the participators in which were set at liberty by the Sultan's amnesty, but in consequence of recent secret information lodged against them. I have, therefore, not thought it necessary to notify the facts to Her Majesty's Ambassador by telegraph, as I should have done had these individuals been rearrested for their alleged complicity in acts which the Sultan has been pleased to pardon.

I am unaware to what extent the charges of sedition brought against them have any foundation, but from my knowledge of the characters of several of the prisoners I am inclined to doubt the truth of those charges.

I have earnestly urged on the authorities the advisability of proceeding with

caution and leniency in the trial of these men, and begged them to consider the likelihood that certain unprincipled persons, profiting by the existing circumstances, may be tempted by the hope of extorting money, to bring charges against innocent individuals; a system which was successfully practised last year, and in the pursuit of which I regret to say that Christians were the principal, if not the only agents.

One Jacobaki, a Greek who was last year employed to translate suspected documents, and who, in the performance of that task, is known to have made money at the expense of the prisoners, has again been engaged in the same capacity. I am assured, however, by the Mutessarif that his translations will not be accepted without careful revision.

There is, I must add, some security against the perpetration of injustice on this occasion in the presence on the Military Tribunal of a civilian named Scherif Bey, a Turkish notable of Adrianople, and Deputy to the Ottoman Parliament, who made himself remarkable last year by his opposition to the extreme measures adopted for the suppression of the Bulgarian rising, and who, it may be hoped, has been appointed to his present functions in view of his known moderation and high-mindedness.

The following are the names of the Bulgarians arrested by order of the Military Tribunal:—Panayoti Touhafdji, Vemchi Handji, of Avrat-Alan, Yovantcho Handji, Yovantcho Doushkoff, Stephano Drensky, Costaki Hadji Katchoff, Yovantcho Fehtchi, Hadji Louca, Dousho Tahtadji, Spaso Bakal, and Costaki Peyeff.

I cannot conclude this report without paying a tribute to the exertions of the Mutessarif in favour of the maintenance of public order. He has done his utmost to impress on the peasantry (Mussulman and Christian), both verbally and by circular letters read publicly in the villages, the necessity of maintaining a passive attitude in presence of the Russian invasion. In this he has succeeded, as far as regards the Mussulmans; but, judging by the reports which reach me from the districts in which the Russians have arrived, the Bulgarians are not slow to avail themselves of the presence of their deliverers to wreak indiscriminate vengeance on the Turkish peasantry.

The troops which were last week dislodged from the Shipka Pass, and withdrew to this town, have behaved, both here and on the line of retreat, in a most admirable and exemplary manner. Far from having been rendered savage and intractable by their reverses, they are quiet and civil towards the townspeople, buy nothing which they cannot pay for, and withal show an eagerness to be led once more against the enemy which, after their recent reverses, is worthy of admiration. That their losses must have been severe is betrayed by the fact that, although they number ten battalions, the whole force which retreated upon Philippopoli does not exceed 3,800 men.

They complain bitterly of their General, Rassim Pasha, but for whom, they say, they might have held out for some days longer, but who withdrew them from their positions long before their stores and ammunition were exhausted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 225.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 900.) *Therapia, August 7*, 1877.

My Lord,

UPON the receipt of the despatch from Mr. Dupuis, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, I caused a note to be made of the occurrences mentioned in it, and to be given to the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and, in reply, I have received from the Porte the Memorandum, copy of which is also inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 225.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, May 26*, 1877.

ON the 24th instant I did myself the honour to telegraph to your Excellency as follows:—

"With reference to my telegram of the 19th instant, Bulgarian house was broken into by some men supposed to be Albanians, killed one son, wounded the second, and severely beat the widow, and carried away property valued about 1,000 piastres."

I now give your Excellency the version of the widow, whom I have seen and questioned as to the occurrence.

It appears that, on the night of the 18th instant, while the family were all asleep, the house of this woman, named Jano, in the village of Pravady, near Adrianople, was forcibly entered by six armed men, carrying lights, and wearing Albanian clothing, but speaking Turkish. The noise caused by their entrance roused her son Vangeli, who was immediately shot; the second son, while endeavouring to escape, was fired at and wounded. The woman was then seized by the leader of the gang, thrown down and beaten, in order to make her reveal what money was in the house. The poor woman's two thighs and shoulders presented one mass of bruises and discolourations, inflicted, as she told me, with the end of a musket and the back of a yataghan. She also showed me a scar on her breast, which she says was done by the application of burning wood. She said she was likewise burnt on her stomach. About 1,000 piastres' worth of property was carried off by the thieves. The day previous to this occurrence the family had expended 5,000 piastres in the purchase of sheep, which, it is supposed, led to the occurrence. Two Christians, Theodori and Boultcho, have since been taken up in consequence.

Having last night been informed of a similar affair at the Greek village of Kadikeuy, near Demotika, as I wrote to your Excellency yesterday, where six Circassians surrounded a Christian house and shot the proprietor and wounded his servant, a gipsy, and robbed the premises, I sent my dragoman to the Governor-General to inquire into the truth of the report. His Excellency replied that he had information of this circumstance, and that he had despatched a force to secure the assassins.

Intelligence comes from Sofia that, about the 10th instant, a Bulgarian priest and a peasant were attacked on the road by two Turks, Bimbashizade and another man, who killed the peasant and wounded the priest, who is now in hospital; but, attempts having been made to show that the man died of heart disease, the matter was taken up by the Italian Consul, who had the body exhumed, when it was proved the man was shot.

The Vali has not heard of this circumstance, nor do I vouch for it, and I only give it as it was related to me.

Again, on the 25th instant, on the road to Kirkklissia, it was reported to me that a Turk named Said Agha provoked a quarrel with a Bulgarian and shot him in the thigh; the wounded man was brought into town yesterday.

I do not wish to weary your Excellency with cases of simple robbery and cattle-lifting by the Circassians, as I believe they would be too numerous to relate. I will only mention one instance. On the 22nd instant, as Milti Georgeoglu, of Dermendere, in the Nahié (commune) of Tehorkaz, was in the act of ploughing his land preparatory to sowing millet, three Circassians of Kalburun (a nest of thieves) went up to him, when one named Mehemet Ali pointed a gun at him, and compelled him to unyoke two cows and give them up.

In conclusion, I venture to say that, if a Special Commission were provisionally established here for the trial and punishment of such offenders, or if the Governor-General caused a very severe example to be made of one or two Circassians found guilty of murder, these disorders would probably cease to be a constant source of annoyance and trouble to the Government at this particular moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

P.S.—A party of brigands reported to have landed at Macri, it is said, are Circassians in disguise.

J. H. D.

Inclosure 2 in No. 225.

Memorandum.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a reçu en son temps le Memorandum que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 1er Juin dernier relativement à certains méfaits commis dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople sur la personne de quelques Bulgares.

En égard à la gravité des faits dénoncés, la Sublime Porte s'est fait un devoir d'interpeller à ce sujet, sans retard, le Gouvernement-Général d'Andrinople, et le Ministère Impérial a l'honneur de transmettre aujourd'hui à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique des renseignements authentiques sur les différents points qui formaient l'objet du Memorandum en question.

Les nommés Loloudji et Théodori, soupçonnés d'avoir pris part au vol et à l'assassinat commis dans la maison de la femme Jano à Pravady, ont été arrêtés, et la police est à la recherche de leurs complices. Les autorités Impériales d'Andrinople ajoutent que le nommé Saïd Aga, convaincu d'avoir blessé un Bulgare sans avoir été provoqué, a été condamné à vingt jours d'emprisonnient, et que les autorités Impériales, après enquête, ont dressé et soumis au Ministère de la Justice un rapport circonstancié sur le crime dont un prêtre et un Bulgare ont été victimes à Sofia.

En portant ce qui précède à la connaissance de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères est persuadé qu'elle voudra bien reconnaître que pour tout ce qui est de méfaits signalés par l'Ambassade et dont l'existence ne paraît pas malheureusement douteux, les autorités compétentes n'ont pas négligé de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour mettre la justice à même de suivre son cours régulier.

Sublime Porte, le 2 Août, 1877.

No. 226.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 901.) *Therapia, August* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Consuls Reade and Blunt, Vice-Consul Saukoy, and Captain Drummond, of Her Majesty's ship "Rapid," relative to the disturbed state of the country and the progress of military operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 226.

Consul Reade to Mr. Layard.

Varna, August 2, 1877.

Sir,

ALI BEY, the Mutessarif of Varna, returned to this the day before yesterday from Kavarna and Bazardjik.

As to what he has done at the former place no one here knows.

The Yuzbashi of Baltchik, the cause of the Kavarna massacre, is at large. Nothing whatever has been done as to the missing refugees said to be in the Circassian villages between this and Baltchik, and the Circassians are carrying on their robbery and plunder as actively, or more so, than ever.

I was yesterday talking to a Turkish Captain of Baltchik, who, speaking of the missing refugees from Kavarna, said that it was well known that they were in the Circassian villages between this and Baltchik, and why Ali Bey does not take steps to reclaim them is a mystery. The fact is, these Circassians are most undoubtedly connived at, if not encouraged, by the authorities here, but from the way in which Fahri Bey, of Tultcha, expresses himself on the subject, I cannot think that, as is said, it is by any order of the Porte.

I have been told by persons who are much in the Government house here that, since the return of Ali Bey, it is openly said that the Kavarna people were in revolt. This is the old story of last year, and only put forward in order to cover the responsibility of the authorities.

Horses, cattle, and sheep are now being sold in the vicinity of the Government house at prices which clearly show that they have been stolen, and I am told that most are being bought by the authorities for Government purposes. This would seem to account for the non-interference with the Circassians, who are chiefly the sellers.

The authorities have brought the Kavarna refugees here, but had it not been for the Greek community they would have starved.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

P.S.—Since writing the foregoing, Vice-Consul Dalziel has addressed me a report on the subject of my present despatch, which I have only time to inclose, and which will throw additional light on the subject of the stolen cattle. The cattle are taken from the plunderers and said to be delivered to their owners, but as the former are not punished, the whole thing is simply a farce got up to cover the responsibility of the authorities.

R. R.

Inclosure 2 in No. 226.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul Reade.

Varna, August 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in consequence of reports which reached me, I thought it my duty to draw the attention of the Mutessarif of Varna to the fact that horses and cattle are being publicly sold daily at very low prices, and that, to the best of my information, in most instances the sellers had not teskeries for their beasts.

The Mutessarif professed astonishment at the communication, and calling a Yuzbachi of zaptiehs gave him orders that a strict lookout should be kept; that in all cases sellers of beasts should have teskeries, showing that the beasts were their *bond fide* property. Of course it will be apparent to you that the authorities should not have required a communication from me to cause them to do their duty.

The Mutessarif informed me that a commissioner named Ali Shefik Bey had arrived yesterday charged to inquire into all cases of stolen property, and had commenced his inquiry to-day. He also offered to show me all that the authorities had done in order to prevent robberies and outrages. I informed him that while I was at all times at his service to give the best advice I could, I did not think that it was any part of my duty to overlook, or in any way direct, his action, but as a sincere friend to Turkey I cautioned him that such events as had recently happened gave me great pain, and that I knew they tended to alienate the sympathy of the English people and Government.

The Mutessarif also informed me that a distribution of stolen property had been made to-day to the owners, as far as they could be found. I am aware that some such thing was done, but don't know what steps were taken to find the real owners, and that the authorities were now taking steps to resettle the villagers of the Dobrudcha in their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 226.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's instruction of the 14th ultimo, and in sequel to my despatch of the 31st following, I have the satisfaction to report that Assim Pasha and the Vali, Ibrahim Pasha, are to all appearance using every effort to prevent acts of retaliation from being visited by the Mussulmans upon their Christian fellow subjects at large, and to promote a friendly feeling between both sections of the people.

Three squads of cavalry, composed of fifty men each, and commanded by efficient officers, have been sent to patrol the villages in this sandjak with a view to the

preservation of order and the protection of the inhabitants from disturbers of the public peace, of whatever class. These patrols are specially charged to stop and examine Circassians returning from the seat of war. All stolen property found upon them is taken and collected in a mosque. Particular attention is given to the matter of cattle. Some 4,000 head which had been carried off principally from deserted Turkish and Bulgarian villages have already been recovered, and are properly fed and looked after, pending their identification by their own owners.

Assim Pasha has telegraphed to the Porte suggesting the dispatch at once from the capital of similar patrols to the Cazas of Tchataldja, Vizi, and Tchorlu, with the special object of arresting Circassian marauders, and recovering from them plundered property.

Lastly, Ibrahim Pasha has addressed a Circular Instruction to the district authorities of this vilayet, enjoining them to afford to the best of their power protection to the families of Bulgarian insurgents, no less than to those of loyal subjects of the Porte. I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency a translated copy of the Circular in question.

I continue on all occasions to exhort such persons as enjoy influence and standing here in the sense of your Excellency's instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 226.

The Vali of Adrianople to the District Authorities of the Vilayet.

July $\frac{17}{31}$, 1877.

(Translation.)

AS it is indispensable to bring to punishment those who are guilty of rising against the Government, shedding blood, and burning down houses, so is it at all times, but especially under the present circumstances, necessary to take the greatest care to insure the safety and tranquillity of honest folks and of those who have not made common cause with the insurgents, and, moreover, to protect even the wives and children of the rebels, we therefore have to request you to send instructions to the cazas of your sandjak that in the event of any person being subjected to arbitrary and oppressive acts the local authorities are at once to lay hands on those who have committed such acts, and to send the guilty parties to the chief town of your sandjak, there to undergo their proper punishment. You yourself will at the same time see that the above instructions are conformed to.

(L.S.) IBRAHIM.

Inclosure 5 in No. 226.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the Turkish copy of a telegram which was received this afternoon from Suleiman Pasha, and which has been printed and distributed to the public, relative to the recapture of Eski-Zaghra.

There has been some very serious fighting at Yeni-Zaghra, where the Russians attacked in force Raouf Pasha, driving him out, and destroying the railway station and town. The authorities, of course, have published no details of this reverse, but I hear from private sources that Raouf Pasha's brigades reached Kara-Bounar in great disorder.

Suleiman Pasha's advance upon Eski-Zaghra obliged the Russians to retire from Yeni-Zaghra, and thus saved Raouf Pasha's army from a great disaster.

One hundred and forty-five dead bodies of Turkish soldiers, and ninety of Russian soldiers, were found in the streets of Yeni-Zaghra alone; and some 600 Turkish wounded have been brought here by two trains, and more are expected to-morrow.

The hospitals of Adrianople are crowded, and the few doctors have their hands full; and as many more wounded are expected in the course of a few days, the assistance of a strong staff of doctors and large supplies of hospital stores are most urgently needed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 226.

Vice-Consul Sankey to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

Kustendji, July 31, 1877.

I HAVE to report to your Excellency that, since the Russians have occupied this town, order has been restored, and that the Cossacks range the country, bringing in every man they find with arms; he is then disarmed and allowed to go to his village and take in his harvest. A very few Tartar families have returned, as they are prevented doing so by the Turks.

The Bulgars are, perhaps, naturally pillaging and burning in the few villages inhabited by Tartars, but are severely punished by the Russian authorities, who seem to have a very low opinion of the Bulgars. Lately upwards of 3,000 Bulgars and Greek refugees from Shabler and Kavarna came here with a sad tale of massacre by Cabagh Tartars and Circassians, incited thereto by a Government Yuzbashi and some zaptiehs. These poor people had been walking for four days, did not know what had become of their wives and families, and some with such horrible wounds that it is a surprise that they could have undergone such fatigues and privations. Amongst them were wounded women.

On Sunday two Turkish iron-clads appeared off the port as if to keep up a blockade. The Russians had erected a battery of four small field-pieces in front of one of the Company's houses, 100 yards, or thereabouts, from this Vice-Consulate. The Russians very imprudently fired at the iron-clads, sending their small shells about half-way. The Turks consulted for a long time, as we could see a boat passing from one to the other, and at last went off without returning fire. I expostulated with the General about his having begun such a useless fire, and given the Turks the right to bombard the town. The guns were removed the same day, and placed in battery on the northern cliff outside the town. Yesterday morning the two iron-clads reappeared and fired two round shot at a caique attempting to reach this port. One shot struck the cliff by the light-house; the other fell in the centre of the town, piercing the store kept by Mr. John Bullock, an Englishman, who was then writing a letter; and John Bullock, letter, and the whole store were plentifully covered with pans, pickles, and sauces. This ball (40-pounder) went through three houses, but no one was hurt. A shell fell into a khan in which were 150 Bulgars, but did not explode, and another fell near the Greek church without exploding. The Russian batteries then began firing, and between half-past 9 and 11 about twenty shots each were exchanged between the batteries and ships without any damage, except the last shell fired by the Russians, which seemed to fall upon the deck of the Vice-Admiral's ship. None of the Turkish shells exploded.

General Zimmerman and the Russian officers, are most friendly and courteous, and one and all say that they look upon the possibility of a war with England with pain and loathing. I merely use their own expressions, which have the appearance of sincerity at least. I have been asked to promise not to write anything about the numbers of the Russian troops and their movements. I said that, of course, I must give any information I could possibly pick up, and could therefore give no promise. The General then said:—"You may write what you like; and we trust entirely to your sense of right and wrong." I have therefore not been near their camps, either here or at Medjidieh, or Tchernavoda, and have refrained from asking indiscreet questions.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I am receiving no war-allowance, and on account of the scarcity and dearness of all necessaries, am in very straitened circumstances. I have the honour, therefore, to beg that your Excellency will grant me even a temporary allowance to meet the exceptional expenses.

(Signed) H. SANKEY.

P.S.—6 P.M. No ironclads in sight all day.

Inclosure 7 in No. 226.

Commander Drummond to Mr. Layard.

Sir,

"*Rapid*," *at Burgaz, August* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Consul Brophy is supposed to be still at Slimnia, where, from the terms of a telegram, a copy of which I inclose, his presence appears to be necessary. I have transmitted to him your Excellency's commands to return to Burgaz.

Yesterday Mr. C. Brophy, a brother of the Consul, and who occupies a farm about five hours from here, arrived, and from him I gathered the following information, viz., that the Circassians are now commencing to plunder the country from the Balkans southwards systematically, that is to say, that the time of their arrival at the different villages can be pretty well foreseen; that they in general merely pillage the villages and drive off the cattle without regular massacre, but occasional murders. In fact, the same state of affairs now obtains in the district round and about Aidos as lately obtained in the Dobrudcha. To this is added a new and grave danger, viz., that a suspicion is now rising in the midst of the Mahommedan population, from rumours that are being circulated, that their co-religionists are being deliberately massacred, and sometimes mutilated by Bulgarians or Russians in districts that have been overrun by Russian forces, and that if this suspicion becomes conviction very serious results are likely to follow.

I am informed that Consul Blunt is also at Slimnia, and, as your Excellency will probably have been informed in detail of these matters—if, indeed, they have occurred, —it is not necessary for me to report what are here mere rumours.

In compliance with your Excellency's telegram of the 2nd instant, I am awaiting here your despatch of that date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. DRUMMOND.

Inclosure 8 in No 226.

Petition of the Inhabitants of Slimnia for the presence of Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy.

(Traduction.)

LA présence de Mr. Ch. Brophy, Vice-Consul Britannique, étant ici une nécessité dans les circonstances critiques, et d'un bien urgent pour les Chrétiens et les Islams de cette ville, les soussignés, ayant appris que dans ce moment Mr. Brophy est appelé à Bourgas par ordre supérieur, nous venons supplier, au nom de la population entière, qu'il soit permis à Mr. Brophy de séjourner encore ici durant quelques jours dans les moments de désordre.

Veuillez, nous vous prions, intervenir auprès du Commandant du pyroscaphe stationnaire à Bourgas pour qu'il nous accorde la faveur que nous implorons, et veuillez nous en informer par télégraphe.

(Signé) L'ARCHEVEQUE BULGARE.
(Et 7 autres.)

No. 227.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 902.) *Therapia, August* 7, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of telegrams and despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls and Military Attachés respecting "atrocities."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 227.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

I INCLOSE the copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis of this date, and a copy of the telegram I have just sent to your Excellency relative to Russian and Bulgarian barbarities in the Toundja valley.

The murder of a Bulgarian by a Turk in the town of Tchirmen was reported to me this morning, and people who have come from the interior state their having heard from eye-witnesses that the country on this side of the Toundja, between Yeni-Zaghra and Yambol, is also very disturbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 227.]

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

RAHME, a Turkish woman, the wife of Mehemet of Sarhanli, in the district of Kyzilagatch, came to me yesterday and related that, on the 22nd ultimo, while she and her husband, together with several other women with their husbands and children, were resting on the banks of the River Tundja, journeying to Adrianople, the men sitting apart from the females, five or six shots were suddenly fired into their midst out of an adjacent forest near the Bulgarian village of Yenidgeli, the woman Rahmé receiving a bullet wound in the upper part of her right arm.

I shall to-day visit other wounded people, Christians as well as Mussulmans, in this city, and report to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 227.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

WHILST accounts of Russian and Bulgarian barbarities are unhappily accumulating, deeds of a similar nature are not wanting on the Turkish side. It is with deep regret that I have to report to your Excellency the following particulars of a massacre perpetrated by Circassians at the Christian village of Gunetli-Mahalessi, which I believe to be the place referred to in your Excellency's telegram to Vice-Consul Dupuis of the 28th ultimo. I have received this information from two independent and reliable sources, one of these being Mr. Scarborough, whose informants were Drs. Meyrich and Leslie, of the National Aid Society.

On the 26th of July Raouf Pasha marched with ten battalions from Yeni-Zaghra, and during a skirmish between Circassians and Cossacks near the village in question, two of the former, brothers, were shot. Upon this, the rest of the Circassians declared they would kill every inhabitant of the village. Raouf Pasha, with his regulars, having pushed forward during the night, the Circassians returned to Gunetli-Mahallesi and carried their threat into execution. The inhabitants took refuge in the church and were there massacred to the number of 135 men, women, and children. Next day Raouf Pasha returned through the same village, and Drs. Leslie and Meyrich, who accompanied him, were, Mr. Scarborough says, eye-witnesses of the scene of death. They found a little child alive fondling the dead body of its mother.

Raouf Pasha, on hearing of the tragedy, went to the village and caused the bodies to be buried, the wounded to be attended to, and rations and money to be distributed to the survivors. The General, moreover, placed under arrest fifteen or sixteen of the Circassian ringleaders, and sent them hand-cuffed to Yeni-Zaghra for trial. In the confusion of the Russian attack on that town, however, the prisoners effected their escape.

Mr. Scarborough states that it was rumoured in camp that fresh massacres on both sides subsequently occurred in other villages. As soon as Raouf Pasha heard of these barbarities he sent, it is said, some regular cavalry to put a stop to them.

With reference to the massacre of Christians at Yeni-Zaghra, and my intention to send Mr. Edmund Calvert there and to Gunetli Mahalessi to inquire into the facts, as stated in my despatch to your Excellency of the 30th ultimo, the Russian attack on the former place the same day of course prevented my doing so. In the meanwhile I am assured that Yeni-Zaghra has been almost completely deserted since the massacre. Most of the fugitive inhabitants are now here, and I have taken steps to obtain information from them.

There can, I fear, be no doubt that the Circassian and Turkish irregulars are committing all manner of excesses, and I would beg to submit that a further extension of those excesses can only be prevented by stern examples being made of those who are guilty of them. Suleiman Pasha has, it is true, degraded several Circassian officers, and has had flogged in the presence of his troops a number of their men detected in the perpetration of outrages and marauding acts. But this is not enough. If the General would impartially inflict on the worst class of these offenders the capital punishment which has been visited on Bulgarian culprits—seven of whom were

hanged at Karabounar and nine at Philippopolis by his orders—it would probably produce a more salutary effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 227.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency, inclosed, the translated copy of a telegraphic despatch which the Vali of Adrianople has received to-day from Suleiman Pasha, now at Eski-Zaghra, and which Ibrahim Pasha has communicated to all the Consular Corps at Adrianople.

I have told the Vali that without further proof I cannot believe in such acts of unmitigated savagery as are therein attributed to the Russian invaders, even on the authority of the Commander-in-chief in the Balkans, and that I sincerely hope it may prove that Suleiman Pasha has been misinformed.

A number of Turkish, Bulgarian, and Jewish fugitives from Eski-Zaghra are expected by this evening's train, and I shall not fail to question them closely on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 227.

Suleiman Pasha to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Eski Zaghra, August 3, 1877.*

IT is with the utmost pain and grief that I inform your Excellency that the result of inquiries made, and statistical information obtained, by the local authorities through the Imams and Moukhtars of the quarters of Eski-Zaghra, have now proved that in the course of the eleven days during which the Russians occupied the town, they perpetrated the following deeds:—

Having collected on the day of their arrival all the arms in the possession of the Mussulman inhabitants of the town, they caused them to be summoned in batches day by day, through the Moukhtars, with these words, "Come, the authorities want you." The Russians then seizing the persons so summoned, put them to death. In this way during the space of eleven days, 1,140 Mussulman lives were destroyed.

Such is the result of the investigations and the calculations of numbers made by the Imams and Moukhtars of the quarters of Eski-Zaghra. These local officials furthermore report that during the same period of Mussulman calamity there was not one woman whose honour escaped violation.

Inclosure 6 in No. 227.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philibé, August 2, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

YESTERDAY it was reported here that villages of Carlowo and Sopot, at foot of Balkans, had been burnt, and general massacre of inhabitants made by troops sent from here to punish them for joining Russians. Eshref Bey, son of Mussir Chafvet Pasha, and aide-de-camp of the Sultan, who accompany these troops, however, returned here last night, and inform me that inhabitants surrendered at first summons, only a few firing at troops. Eight or ten of inhabitants were killed, and on side of troops two killed, one wounded. Ringleaders, and head men of Carlowo and Sopot, were arrested, and probably will arrive here to-day. He encountered no Russians, but some 200 Cossacks are reported still at Kalafa.

Inclosure 7 in No. 227.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philibé, August 4, 1877.*

INFORMATION given me by Aide-de-camp concerning Carlowa turns out utterly false. Governor has just received news that inhabitants have fled to Kalofer, where there is strong insurgent force supported by small force of Russians. Most active steps are taken by authorities here to prevent pillaging villages between this and Carlowa. Soldiers and irregulars bringing in booty are at once put in irons. News received here that during Russian occupation of Zaghra, which lasted eleven days, one hundred Turks were put to death daily, making total of 1,100 executions. Town said to be completely destroyed by Turks, and vast number of inhabitants killed.

Inclosure 8 in No. 227.

Lieutenant Layard to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, August 4, 1877.*

AT the Governor's request I to-day visited some of the wounded women and children; saw fifteen women and twelve children with gun and lance wounds. I telegraph at his request, and write more particulars.

Inclosure 9 in No. 227.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, August 5, 1877.*

3,500 Turkish, Bulgarian, and Jewish fugitives, chiefly women and children, arrived here to-day from Eski-Zaghra in two special trains. Please inform American Legation that citizens Bond and Marsh, with families, just arrived here all well; mercifully saved from Circassians by their Turkish neighbours, and that to-morrow they leave for, and will arrive at, Constantinople. They state that immediately Russians occupied town all the arms surrendered by the Turks were distributed to Bulgarians promiscuously; that undoubtedly atrocities were committed by Bulgarians with knowledge of Russians, and that Turks have retaliated with severity.

Inclosure 10 in No. 227.

Lieutenant Layard to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 4, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, at the request of the Vali of Adrianople, Ibrahim Pasha, I this morning visited two houses occupied by refugees from villages in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra. I there saw a number of women and children in a state of great misery, and I myself counted the wounded. In all, there were wounded thirteen women, three children, two boys and one girl, from eight to fifteen years of age, eight from one to three years of age, and one of five months only. One woman stated that the bullet which struck her in the breast had passed through and killed the infant in her arms.

I also saw two other wounded women in the house of the Chief of the Police.

The Mounvin told me that altogether there are about 3,000 refugees in the place, thirty-nine being wounded. Those that I did not see are lodged in the houses of charitable people of Adrianople.

It could not be shown that the Cossacks themselves actually fired on or wounded any of these people, as they were mixed up with a crowd of Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN LAYARD, *Lieutenant,*
Military Attaché.

No. 228.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 903.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, respecting the state of affairs in Epirus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 228.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Prevesa, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

IT is with regret that I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that most discouraging accounts relative to the state of public security in the north of Epirus continue to reach me from M. Kypriotis. The number of brigands appears to be increasing in such a way as to cause serious alarm. Three bands making a total of, according to M. Kypriotis' reports, 220 men are roaming about the district of Konitza, and although I am prepared to make the largest possible allowance for exaggeration by reducing their number as given above to one-half, still their acts go far to prove that they are a most desperate set of villains, who seem determined to set at nought every measure that the present provincial authorities are prepared to take against them.

On the 8th instant a band of twenty-five of them, but which shortly afterwards appears to have swelled to forty, entered the village of Stratziani, situated about five hours from the chief town of Konitza, and murdered a man about 80 years of age, simply because he could not satisfy their demands for money, and the Kaïmakam arriving there with ten policemen, the brigands entered another village called Molista, which is nearer still to the seat of the Kaïmakam, and attacked the house of Evangeli Xenos, who has the reputation of being the wealthiest man in the village; but the latter, aided by his son and a servant, succeeded in repulsing the brigands and killing three of them. The brigands thereupon retreated, but before doing so they cut off and carried away with them the heads of their comrades that had fallen, in order, no doubt, to prevent their hand from being discovered. They then proceeded to fire into the house of young Xeno, but, fortunately, the house was vacant, as young Xeno, on hearing of the act of brigandage committed at Stratziani, took all his family to his father's house, which appears to be well protected by a strong wall built for that purpose.

The Kaïmakam, who was still at Stratziani, hearing that the brigands were at Molista, proceeded thither at once, and the brigands, taking advantage of his presence at Molista, paid a second visit to the village of Stratziani.

Notzipis, nephew of the once-notorious brigand chief, Hadji Gomara, is supposed to be the leader of the above-mentioned band of brigands, and his followers are deserters from the army, and other Turks, natives of Kolonia, a place famous for its production of the fiercest set of brigands.

The inhabitants of Konitza, alarmed by these daring acts of brigandage, and having, moreover, to rely for protection on a very slender police force, as the majority had gone out with the Kaïmakam to pursue the brigands, they were seriously thinking of forming an armed body of men, at their own expense, to protect the town against the brigands; but this measure was not put into practice, as, on the 17th instant, Colonel Ahni Bey, with eighteen mounted policemen, made his appearance there.

It appears, that owing to the despatch of Greek troops to the Greek frontier, the Vali of Janina telegraphed for a reinforcement of 7 battalions, lately serving against Montenegro, to guard the Turkish side of the frontier: and Brigadier-General Phasli Pasha left Janina on the 20th instant, to consult with the commander of the troops in Thessaly, Achmet Pasha, as to the best mode of repelling any attack from the Greek quarter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 228.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Prevesa, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that M. Kypriotis, writing confidentially, under date of the 23rd instant, acquaints me that since the death of Husni Pasha, the Committee at Janina, acting with less circumspection, the number of conspirators has increased, and owing to small contributions from this new addition to the conspiracy, the Committee have been enabled to supply the inhabitants of the poorer districts with gunpowder, lead, and sandals. The Committee, however, have frequently endeavoured, by means of the above supplies, to induce the peasantry to take up arms, assuring them that, as soon as the insurrection breaks out, everything necessary for the success of the enterprise will flow in in great abundance from Greece; but failing in this respect, the Committee found themselves at last compelled to subordinate their actions to the demands of the peasants, who appear to be acting under the advice of a counter-committee, and exact that Government should take the initiative. On account of this the Committee have of late attempted to organize a legion of 500 young men at Janina, but they had scarcely sent off 30 young men to Greece to exercise themselves in the use of arms, when, fearing detection, the so-called enlistment was brought to an untimely end.

I beg leave to state, however, that Janina is not the only town which supplied or continued to supply, the Greek army with volunteers, because young men from Prevesa, as well as from Arta, have, within the last few days, crossed over to Greece to offer their services to the Greek Government, and the local authorities are fully aware of it.

I here beg leave to refer to my Confidential despatch of the 11th instant, and to acquaint your Excellency that the local authorities, being at last convinced that it is impossible just at present for the shepherds to pay the extra tax on sheep, the headmen of several villages, who were brought to Prevesa, and lodged in prison because they could not collect the above tax, have consequently been released, and five months' time has been allowed them to collect it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 229.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 904.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE Turkish Government appear to have abandoned the expedition to Circassia altogether. When it was undertaken, those who were acquainted with the country and its inhabitants had no hope of its success. Hobart Pasha, after reconnoitring Poti, but not returning the fire from the Russian guns, proceeded along the coast to Chamchiva, where he found a Turkish force of 6,000 men exposed to great danger from the enemy, who was closing around them in superior numbers. They were encamped on the sea-shore, and Hobart Pasha seeing their critical position determined at once to re-embark them on his own responsibility. This he effected with the most complete success, taking away men, guns, ammunition, provisions, and everything else. The operation was protected by the fire of the Turkish ships, one of which lost several men.

The troops embarked at Chamchiva were landed at Soukum-Kaleh. A fleet of ironclads and transports has now been placed under the orders of Hobart Pasha for the removal of the whole Turkish forces occupying that port. They will, I understand, be sent to Batoum. About 20,000 Circassian families having exposed themselves to the vengeance of the Russians by rising against them on the arrival off their coast of the Turkish expedition, the Sultan feels that he cannot abandon them to the cruel fate to which experience unhappily proves that they would be exposed on the withdrawal of his troops. Sentiments of honour and humanity have consequently led him to determine to take them under his permanent protection, and to remove them to his dominions. They will be embarked by Hobart Pasha and landed somewhere on the southern coast of the Black Sea. The lamentable results of the former Circassian migration to Turkey render the policy of this measure somewhat doubtful; but the

Sultan could scarcely have done otherwise. It is to be hoped that measures will be taken to keep this addition to the unruly and dangerous Circassian population under proper control.

It would appear that the only advantage obtained by the Turks from the expedition to Circassia has been that it has forced Russia to retain a considerable force in the Caucasus, which might have been more usefully employed elsewhere. It has led to a vast destruction of property. The districts invaded by the Turks and those adjoining them having been laid waste and the inhabitants subjected to the most cruel treatment by the Russians. It is to be hoped, for the sake of humanity and civilization, that the reports which have reached Europe on the subject are exaggerated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 230.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 905.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

LATE on the evening of the 3rd instant some alarm was caused to the inhabitants of Therapia and Buyukdéré by a lively cannonade close to the entrance of the Bosphorus. It appears that a very fast vessel, fitted up by the Russians with guns, had suddenly made her appearance off the coast near the small village and fort of Kilé. She captured three small sailing ships, two of which were the property of Greeks. After taking out the crew she set them on fire, and, sending a few shells at the village and fort, retired.

These expeditions have a flavour of piracy, and are to be regretted, because there is a good deal of private property belonging to the Emperor and his subjects on the Crimean coast which is exposed to destruction from Turkish ships of war, but which, I have reason to know, has hitherto been spared by the Turkish naval authorities, who have been unwilling to inflict wanton injury upon it. Moreover, the small coasting vessels and their cargo which have been destroyed in this and similar expeditions belong, for the most part, to Christians whom the Russians are making war to protect. If they could be secured as prizes, the case might be different; but to destroy small craft laden with the produce of the villages along the coast would seem rather a useless piece of mischief.

Since the occurrence at Kilé three ironclads have been stationed opposite Buyukdere, but it is more than doubtful whether they can do anything to interfere with the proceedings of the Russian cruizer, whose speed, I believe, exceeds that of any ship in the Turkish navy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have the honour to inclose the account of the occurrence referred to above inserted by the Porte in the newspapers.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Newspaper Extract.

LA marine Russe s'est encore une fois distinguée par un acte de piraterie tout récent. Vendredi passé, un bateau Russe qu'on suppose être le "Vladimir" s'est approché de la côte Asiatique de la Mer Noire, à une distance d'une heure de l'entrée du Bosphore devant un village appelé Chili. Là il aperçut trois petits navires sous pavillon Ottoman. Deux de ces navires appartenaient à de Grecs, sujets Ottomans, et étaient chargés de bois de construction. Le troisième était la propriété d'un Musulman et chargé de moutons. Le capitaine du vapeur Russe appela à lui les équipages et leur ordonna de rester à bord de son bateau attendu qu'il allait faire couler leurs navires. Les capitaines commencèrent à supplier l'agresseur, mais celui-ci fut impitoyable. Il envoya un marin chargé de prendre à bord des navires Grecs les images des Saints dont les marins Grecs ornent habituelle-

ment leurs cabines. Cela fait, il ouvrit le feu contre les deux navires Grecs. Les batteries de terre répondirent aussitôt, mais il paraît que ces batteries étant éloignées de la côte n'atteignaient point le bateau Russe.

Voyant qu'il lui était difficile de couler les navires à coups de canon, le commandant envoya des matelots qui versèrent du pétrole dans les câles, mirent le feu aux deux navires et attachèrent une corde au troisième, qui avait un chargement de moutons. Ce dernier navire fut remorqué. Les équipages ont été débarqués près de Chili et sont, nous dit-on, arrivés à Constantinople dans un état pitoyable.

On se demande si la mission toute civilisatrice et humanitaire de la Russie exigeait impérieusement la spoliation et l'acte de piraterie que nous venons de relater.

On dit, mais la chose demande confirmation, que cette attaque a eu lieu en vue de distraire l'attention de l'escadre Ottomane qui croise sur la côte de la Dobroudja où les Russes voulaient débarquer des vivres à destination du corps d'armée qui opère sa retraite dans cette région.

No. 231.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 906.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 316 of the 12th ultimo, respecting the destruction of Turkish vessels in the Black Sea by Russian cruizers, I directed Mr. Sandison to ascertain whether the Porte had any evidence that the crews were in the vessels when they were blown up. I am now informed that a perusal of all the telegrams addressed to the Porte by the Turkish authorities on this subject shows that their statements are confined to the destruction of certain Turkish merchantmen by Russian cruizers by means of torpedoes, but that in none of them is mention made of the loss of their crews. It would seem, therefore, that there was no sufficient ground for the statement to that effect made in Safvet Pasha's telegram to the Turkish Representatives abroad of the 26th June last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 232.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 907.) *Therapia, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram from Vice-Consul Calvert, which was transmitted to your Lordship to-day. Two American missionaries who left Eski-Zaghra after its recapture by the Turkish troops arrived here yesterday. I am informed that they fully confirm the statement of Mr. Calvert that a large number of Bulgarian men were slaughtered, but that the women and children were spared. It is not improbable that the same thing has occurred at Kazanlik, and will occur in other places in which the Bulgarians were induced by the Russians to rise against the Turkish Government, and in which outrages are alleged to have been committed against the Mussulman population.

The only result of the adventurous passage of the Balkans by Russian forces has hitherto been that the Bulgarians in the districts entered by them were led to take arms against their Sovereign, and that they have now, on the withdrawal of the Russian troops, been left to the vengeance of the Turks. It is greatly to be feared that their fate, brought upon them by their friends and protectors, may be a terrible one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 232.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

Philippopolis, August 6, 1877, 11 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FROM women arriving here from Eski-Zaghra I gather that whole of Christian quarter destroyed, and male Bulgarian population slaughtered almost to a man, but few women or children killed, and none violated.

Same thing is stated to have occurred at Kyzanlik, whence Russians are reported to have been driven out.

No. 233.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 911.)

Therapia, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum respecting the state of Bitlis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 233.

Consul Zohrab to Mr. Layard.

Erzeroom, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a letter received here from the Rev. G. Knapp, dated Bitlis, 11th July, in which an improved state of affairs is reported as existing in that town consequent on strict orders from Constantinople to the Lieutenant-Governor of Moosh, in whose jurisdiction Bitlis lies, to visit that town and re-establish order.

The account given by Mr. Knapp of the rascality of the Koords bears out but too well what I have often stated in my reports, that they are of no use to the Government for war purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ZOHRAB.

Inclosure 2 in No. 233.

Extract of a Letter from the Rev. G. Knapp, American Missionary at Bitlis.

July 11, 1877.

LAST Saturday some 2,000 soldiers arrived here from the south for the frontier. They were here three days, and infested the city in the shape of a swarm of beggars begging for bread; 200 succeeded in making their escape as deserters. From our place of health and retreat, near the outskirt of the city, we counted thirty climbing the high mountains on their flight to the south. Deserters are almost constantly passing through here from the frontier.

You may have seen months ago in print a statement that a Koordish Sheikh was going to furnish the Turkish Government with 20,000 men. That was a *ruse*. That Sheikh lives some eleven hours south-east from here, and we have seen him parading by our windows with his straggling unarmed followers. I am told, as a fact, that he went to Van with a few hundred men, and offered their services to the Government; the latter furnished them with 800 rifles, and the Shiekh, instead of going to the front to fight, retreated with his booty, secured from the Government, to his own home, plundering the Christian villages as he went.

The representations by our Christians of the oppression from the Koords has had the effect of securing an order from Constantinople to the Moosh Mutessarif Pasha to come here. He arrived here yesterday. A marked change is apparent. While we heard the report of a hundred or more guns, giving the alarm of approaching plunderers, the night before he came, last night we did not hear one. I have just returned from

making him a friendly call, during which he assured me that he should put a stop to the plundering of the four Koordish tribes by which we have been infested.

I found the markets and shops open, and as busy as a swarm of bees. For five weeks they have been closed.

We now hope for more quiet times.

No. 234.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 912.)

Therapia, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

THE conscription for the army is to be at once enforced in Constantinople, which has hitherto been excepted from it, and Christians are to be included in it.

The Porte has also the intention of raising a mixed body of volunteers for maintaining order in the capital. It has invited the Armenian Patriarch and the heads of other Christian communities to assist in its formation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 235.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 913.)

Therapia, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Scio and Tchesmé, respecting the reported formation of a body of volunteers at Syra, with the view of making a descent on the Island of Scio.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Vice-Consul Anamissaki to Mr. Layard.

Tchesmé, le 30 *Juillet*, 1877.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire part que je viens de m'informer qu'on a constitué à Syra une comité de notables Sciottes organisant la formation d'un corps de volontaires Sciottes et autres mercénaires dans le but de faire une descente sur l'île de Scio, aussitôt que le signal serait donné. On dit que jusqu'à présent ils se sont enrôlés plus de 400 hommes.

Quoiqu'on hésite de croire cette nouvelle, pourtant elle ne paraît pas invraisemblable; mais comme en tout cas un tel mouvement peut troubler la tranquillité des habitants pacifiques, tant de Scio que de Tchesmé, qui se sont saisis de la panique, à cause de la guerre actuelle, en conservant encore vigoureux le souvenir douloureux des deux alternatifs massacres et ruines qu'à subi l'île malheureuse de Scio pendant la révolution Grecque de 1821, par conséquent la présence d'un bâtiment de guerre à ces parages contribuera d'encourager non moins les paisibles habitants tant de Scio que de Tchesmé et prévenir des conséquences pénibles.

Je prie, &c.

(Signé) D. ANAMISSAKI.

No. 236.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 15.)

(No. 914.)

Therapia, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Captain Baird, of Her Majesty's ship "Swiftsure," who, at my request, was sent by Admiral Hornby to visit Salonica, and to ascertain whether the state of affairs there rendered it necessary to

comply with Mr. Consul Barker's demand that one of Her Majesty's ships-of-war should be stationed at that port. Captain Baird is of opinion that the permanent presence of a vessel-of-war is not necessary there, and that an occasional visit from one will be quite sufficient for the protection of British subjects and property.

Captain Baird has also visited Cavalla, from whence the most alarming reports of an impending massacre were received by some of my colleagues. The result shows that they were entirely unfounded.

I quite agree in Captain Baird's opinion of the mischievous effect of the panics which are constantly excited by foolish or designing persons amongst the Christian population in Turkish towns. The Consular Agents at once telegraph the most exaggerated accounts to the Embassies and missions here, and ask for the immediate despatch of a vessel-of-war. It is to the interest of some persons, especially Greeks and those who are working in the interest of Russia, to further magnify these accounts, as in the case of Salonica, Cavalla, and some other places on the coast. The Porte and the Turkish authorities are irritated by these proceedings, which are often calculated to produce very great mischief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 236.

Captain Baird to Vice-Admiral Hornby.

"*Swiftsure*," *Besika Bay, August 4*, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to your orders, after parting company on July 24th, I proceeded for Salonica, and arrived there the following day.

I found everything at Salonica perfectly quiet; order was maintained, nor had any irregularities been committed, unchecked, there or in the immediate neighbourhood.

In the interior, about a day or two's journey from Salonica, there are no doubt lawless bands and individuals who plunder and maltreat villagers and others with impunity, and I understand murders are frequent. These marauders consist principally of deserters from the irregular army and Greeks who have crossed the frontier into Turkey to take advantage of the unsettled state of the country to ply their trade of pillaging. Irregular troops have been sent to keep order, but it is generally believed that they are as prone to crime as those they are sent to look after. There is nothing new in this state of affairs, the same having existed, to my certain knowledge, for several months.

Salonica at present is nearly denuded of troops, all having been sent to the seat of war, but among the oldest residents and those whose opinion I would place reliance upon, there is a general feeling of security both as to life and property, and all I met with agree that the Turks, although excited by the aspect of affairs in their country, will not trouble the Christian population, and the only fear they have of any disturbance is in the event of the Greeks rising, and then, of course, it would be impossible to predict the consequences.

I do not consider it necessary that a man-of-war should be constantly stationed there, but it would be as well, if convenient, that the station should be occasionally visited, in order to impart a feeling of security to the English residents, who, I am afraid, are only too ready to attach immense importance to small and insignificant incidents, thereby causing panics; this naturally has the effect of irritating the authorities, who consider themselves distrusted.

Whilst I was at Salonica 300 able-bodied prisoners were armed, and only awaited the arrival of a steamer to be released from confinement, and sent to the seat of war.

The same measures, I understand, are being taken wherever they have a large number undergoing imprisonment, namely, that of sending all the able-bodied to the front, only retaining in prison the infirm and the sick.

I left Salonica on July 30, and arrived at Cavalla the following day. There, as at the former place, tranquillity prevailed, and there appeared no likelihood of any disturbance arising. It appears that there was a panic created about a week before my arrival, simply on the word of a man and woman, who asserted they had heard two Turks talking about committing some murder. This was magnified into a general

massacre of Christians being organized, and everybody took shelter in churches and other places of security, and telegrams were despatched to the different Embassies at Constantinople, I believe, for men-of-war to be sent there. I need hardly say how this sort of panic must irritate the authorities.

On the 1st of August I proceeded to Thesos, remaining there until Thursday evening, when I left to rejoin your flag, calling at Imbros on Friday.

At Salonica I found at anchor the Austrian ironclad "Salamander" and French gun-vessel "Latouch Treville," and on July 29 the Italian ironclad "Palestro" arrived from Smyrna and Besika, delivering despatches from you. Whilst there the weather was very unsettled.

On July 30, off Cassandra, I fell in with the German squadron, consisting of two broadside ironclads, one turret-ship, and a paddle despatch vessel. I saluted the Rear-Admiral's flag, which was flying on board one of the broadside ships. They were steering in the direction of Salonica.

On July 31 met a strong head wind when off Mount Athos, and it blew very hard when at anchor at Cavallo that evening, with heavy rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning.

It may be as well to mention that about four hours ride from Salonica, a Mr. Robertson with his wife, family, and another Englishman are living on, and managing a farm belonging to a Colonel Baker.

Mr. Robertson, on account of his very injudicious treatment of the natives in his neighbourhood, is likely to get himself into trouble. He has publicly given out that he will shoot any Albanians coming near the farm, and the natives in consequence of this, and his general treatment of them, are much incensed against him.

An Albanian was found dead near the farm quite lately with several bullet holes in his back, and I believe Mr. Robertson or some of his people are suspected of having killed him. It is said he must have been shot with a revolver, and it is known they are armed with them.

If this is true there is no doubt the Albanian's friends will retaliate and avenge his death, and I should not be astonished any day to hear of some murder being committed. It was only a short time before I arrived at Salonica that a shot was fired at one of them while sitting in the verandah of this farm-house in the evening.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. K. E. BAIRD.

No. 237.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 51. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, August 8*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch of the 4th instant to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the preparations made by the authorities in Thessaly in anticipation of Greek aggression, the large sums of money raised in the Vilayet of Salonica for horsemen and rifles, and other local matters.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of my despatch of yesterday's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the departure of Bashi-Bazouks, and that no disturbance had taken place since their arrival at Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August 4*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I learn from Mr. Vice-Consul Suter, under yesterday's date, that the Ottoman authorities at Larissa are confident that a "movement" from Greece against Thessaly is imminent, and they have telegraphed to the capital for more troops, which has been responded to by the Porte.

There are at present in Thessaly from 7,000 to 8,000 men, and about 1,200 irregulars. But the population are afraid that the troops sent will be Circassians and Koord levies, and it is unanimously declared by the Mussulmans as well as the Christians that if such a course be adopted, it will be the ruin of the province. The authorities have just concluded a contract for 200,000 okes of biscuit for the troops, deliverable within a month in any part of the province. The exportation of cereals is prohibited there, but continues here.

Brigandage continues to increase on a large scale.

Yehia-Bey had been sent by our Vali with 250 mustahfiz and some irregular Albanian troops against the brigands, but he allowed his men to commit so many cruelties and violences on the Wallachian shepherds of Seli, that he has been recalled and put in prison *per le forme*. He has full confidence that his friends and relations will get him pronounced innocent, as has been done so often before. He tortured the shepherds in order to compel them to witness that the murderers of "Pentafunta" were not Albanians of his corps.

The black mail levied by these brigands weighs heavily on the Christian population; 1,200*l.* Turkish have been taken by this band alone, a part of whom belong to, and are in the pay of Yehia-Bey.

Mr. Bizzo, first Dragoman of this Consulate, reports to me to-day several robberies, murders, and exactions in the villages of Scoterna, Dramista, and Fteri (district of Ellassona) a few hours from Catterina; and in the environs of Captain Synge's property in the village of Loutro, two Christians have been killed, and the body of a Mussulman was found hacked to pieces; this last was probably a *vendetta*.

I am sorry I cannot record a better state of things than in my former despatches, as to Thessaly, where more armed force exists than here, and brigandage could be put down. Mr. Suter declares that the large sum of 3,000 Turkish pounds not having been paid as ransom, the hostages were put to death, and persons are continually being carried off as captives from different parts of the Vilayets of Thessaly and Salonica. Captain Synge says the fear of the brigands prevents many from taking in their harvests. Here we have about 1,000 Bashi-Bazouks walking about the town armed, to the terror of the inhabitants, waiting for a steamer to take them to Dedé-Aghatch and Adrianople to the war.

Independent of the sums extracted by the brigands, the sum of 60,000 Turkish pounds has been levied (by no means in an impartial manner) in the Vilayet of Salonica for the equipment of 2,000 horsemen, a contingent which has not been entirely completed as yet, and it is feared more money will be requisitioned.

On the 20th of July last a great assembly was held here of all the heads of the three communities, and the sum of 65,000 Turkish pounds, was ordered to be levied from the vilayet for the purchase of 10,000 rifles of the new pattern in order to arm the new levies. These weapons, in the hands of a lawless rabble, will ultimately be a source of great danger to the peaceable inhabitants when the army comes to be disbanded.

The Governor-General has received a telegram from the Governor of Monastir, to the effect that the people of the village of Colonia have killed the Kaimakam, his servant, and a zaptieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, August 7, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Bashi-Bazouks are being sent on to the front; 340 on Sunday the 5th instant by French Steam Company "Fraissinet" to Dede-Aghatch. Yesterday 150 went by land on horseback, and to-day from 200 to 300 are going by the Messageries boat to Dede-Aghatch.

I am happy to say no disturbance of any kind has taken place since their arrival.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD. B. B. BARKER.

No. 238.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 675.)
Vienna, August 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Major Gonne, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 238.

Major Gonne to Sir A. Buchanan.

Vienna, August 11, 1877.

Sir,

YESTERDAY there was a conference at the War Office in order to pass the Army Estimates in review. I am able to state on good authority that the question of mobilization was only touched upon in as far as the Military Chest was concerned. There is not the slightest indication of intention to place any portion of the army on a war footing.

As regards Servia, I hear that Colonel Betholdsheim has returned to the Russian head-quarters instructed as follows (I am unable, however, to vouch for the accuracy of my information):—

"The Austrian Government trusts that the military advisers of the Czar will not consider it necessary to carry war into Little Wallachia or Servia. If the Servians take up arms against the Porte, Austria will not tolerate any interference with Bosnia or the Herzegovina. And further, Prince Wrede at Belgrade is instructed to deprecate any resumption of hostilities. Prince Milan will have nothing in the way of good offices on the part of Austria to expect if he declares war, and his landmarks shall not be altered."

I am also able to state that since the 17th ultimo, the date of first battle at Plevna, 6,000 Russian soldiers have passed from Bucharest to Giurgevo by railway, the traffic from Bucharest consisting of stores and eight trains per day, and to Bucharest of sick and wounded. The number of men *hors de combat* during the four fights near Plevna reaches the enormous total of 40,000. Possibly this total includes the serious cases of sickness from the Russian troops based on Sistova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. GONNE, *Major, 17th Lancers, Military Attaché.*

No. 239.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 15.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 14 août, 1877.

A KÉZANLIK, aussitôt que les troupes Russes ont occupé la ville, les Cosaques et les habitants Bulgares dépouillèrent entièrement les Musulmans, leur enlevant les vêtements qu'ils avaient sur le corps. Pour leur faire déclarer l'argent que ces malheureux pouvaient avoir caché, ils livrèrent les hommes à mille sortes de tortures sous les yeux de leurs femmes. Ceux qui disaient ne rien avoir ont été égorgés. Le Caïmacam de la ville a eu les yeux et les dents arrachés, et pendant trois jours il a été promené en cet état à travers les rues. Après la défaite des Russes à Eski-Zaghra, ceux de Kézanlik évacuèrent la ville, ainsi que les Bulgares; mais ils revinrent le lendemain et, dès lors, le meurtre et le viol furent en permanence. Indépendamment de ceux tués dans les maisons, on égorgeait publiquement chaque jour de vingt à trente Musulmans. Lorsque nos premières forces de secours arrivèrent, les habitants Musulmans leur déclarèrent que, si elles avaient tardé de deux heures, ils allaient être tous égorgés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares. Aux environs de Kézanlik, les villages Musulmans furent dévastés. Un tiers environ des habitants s'était enfui dès l'arrivée des Russes. L'incendie suivit le pillage. Toute la population Musulmane qui restait encore fut massacrée, à l'exception des filles et des plus jeunes d'entre les femmes, qui furent entraînées dans les Balkans. Dans la ville d'Eski-Zaghra, une partie de la

population Musulmane a été aussi massacrée pendant l'occupation des Russes, et le reste n'a été sauvé que par l'arrivée des troupes Ottomanes. De l'autre côté des Balkans, d'après un récent télégramme reçu d'Osman Bazar, l'ennemi brûle systématiquement tous les villages qu'il rencontre dans sa marche. Il commence même à brûler les plantations. Le même système se retrouve en Asie; c'est ainsi que la Mosquée de Tahir Guédik, près d'Alaschguerd, a été incendiée par les Russes. Aux environs d'Ardahan, le village de Keullé et la Mosquée de Dédéchoure ont été brûlés. Dans ces dernières localités, l'ennemi a tué trois habitants et en a blessé seize.

No. 240.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.) (Most Confidential.)
Berlin, August 14, 1877.

EMPEROR tells me that he found Emperor of Austria determined to adhere to a neutral policy and not to interfere until interests of Austria rendered interference unavoidable. Attitude of Austria, His Majesty said, was the same as that of England at present.

No. 241.

Mr. Plunkett to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(Telegraphic.)
Washington, August 14, 1877.

THE Russian man-of-war "Kraisor" has sailed from Philadelphia under sealed orders. Public rumour says she is going to China. She neither enlisted men nor shipped any arms before leaving.

No. 242.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 15.)

(No. 347.) (Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 15, 1877.

FROM Sir A. Kemball, dated 13th:—

"Russian reinforcements arrived last night in the direction of Ardahan, and formed large (?) camp at Perget, strengthening and reinforcing (?). Not yet ascertained whether part of the garrison (?) of Ardahan or fresh troops from Akhalzik or detachments from Batoum light divisions. Turkish cavalry demonstration this morning against Russian extreme left camp at ruins. Collision occurred, but of little importance."

No. 243.

The Earl of Derby to Sir A. Buchanan.

(No. 290.)
Foreign Office August 15, 1877.

Sir,

COUNT BEUST informed me to-day that he had been instructed by a telegram from Vienna, which he had received last night, to oppose the most formal denial to the current rumours respecting an application supposed to have been made by the Russian Government to that of Austria-Hungary, with the view of obtaining permission to enter Servian territory. His Excellency stated that it was affirmed in the telegram that this question had been settled from the beginning, on the basis that Russia ought not to make Servia the theatre of war, and that Russia had made no attempt to alter this arrangement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 244.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Pawcett.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, August 15, 1877.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 13th instant, Reuter's report was incorrect. Mr. Bourke said that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to hold that the blockade is not in conformity with the Treaty of Paris.

No. 245.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 50. Political.)
Canea, Crete, August 1, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have written to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, touching the memorandum which his Excellency sent me regarding the proposals stated to have been made in 1868 for the union of Crete to Great Britain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 245.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Canea, Crete, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 21st ultimo, inclosing for my information copy of a memorandum as to the proposals which are stated to have been made in 1868 for the union of Crete to Great Britain, and which are referred to in my despatch to the Earl of Derby No. 30 of the 4th of June last.

It is abundantly evident from the several despatches cited in the above memorandum that the proposals said by my informant, Kostaros Veludaki, to have been made him by Mr. Erskine, had not the authority of Her Majesty's Government, of which I had never myself any sort of doubt; and from Mr. Erskine's explanations it is also clear that Kostaros had misunderstood the purport of his (Mr. Erskine's) remarks. I had felt myself bound to report the Chief's statement as made to me through the Vice-Consul, and I am now in a position officially to contradict its truth should it again be brought to my notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 246.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 51. Political.)
Canea, Crete, August 5, 1877.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 48 of the 27th ultimo I stated that the 1st instant was looked forward to as the day fixed by the Christians for making a demonstration. When that day came round it was said that the meeting was postponed till the 5th, and, indeed, there seems reason to think that it may take place to-day. Efforts, however, have been made by certain Chiefs to induce their brethren to put off the gathering for another week or fortnight, and nothing but the event can show whether the bolder or more cautious spirits have prevailed. The will to rise in rebellion is certainly strong, and things have now gone so far that I cannot see how peace can be preserved much longer. During the past week, for instance, several persons of influence suspected of fomenting disturbances have disappeared from Canea, and are known to be in Sphakia; and many ardent patriots from different villages have betaken themselves to various centres of disaffection. These men dare not now come within reach of the authorities,

and, considering themselves as compromised, they will spare no pains to incite the people to revolt. The Christians inhabiting the villages at the base of the white mountains not far from this town have been sending off what little property they possess to places of safety in the mountains. These villages in times of disturbance are especially exposed to the depredations of Bashi-Bazouks, whose visits are greatly dreaded by the inhabitants. The Mussulmans of the district of Selino, in the south-west extremity of the Island, where they are cut off from places of refuge, entreated the Pasha some days ago to send them troops to protect them, as otherwise they would be obliged to seek shelter in Canea. His Excellency told them that strict orders had been given to prevent refugees from the country entering the town, but yesterday a few armed Seliniotes with some mules loaded with household stuff appeared before the gate, and, being refused admittance by the guard, forced their way in. Their families meanwhile, it is said, they have lodged in Mussulman farms close by. Many others are reported on the road, and a general exodus from that district seems to have set in. Samih Pasha has expressed his intention to force them all to return with half a battalion of troops for their protection, but his Excellency has before him no easy task. The above are the premonitory symptoms of insurrection familiar to all Cretans.

It is said that the Chiefs are shortly expecting to receive several thousand rifles, and Samih Pasha has himself received a telegram from the Ottoman Minister in Athens advising him that 8,000 have actually been shipped from Greece for these coasts.

It is perhaps premature to state what the precise object of the Cretans in making the impending demonstration is. They are generally credited with the intention of requiring that the demands put forth by the General Assembly last year, and rejected by the Porte, be immediately complied with; but the almost universal desire cherished by them seems to be that the island may be granted an autonomy. The Cretans have at length learnt that the idea of their country being placed under the protection of Great Britain, which they so tenaciously cling to in spite of every discouragement, is a hopeless one, and it seems to have been finally given up. That hope having failed them, the scheme of a Principality under the sovereignty of Turkey, secured by fitting guarantees, they would not regard with disfavour, or, at all events, it seems to have greater attractions for them than the project of annexation to Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 247.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 190.) *Athens, August 7, 1877.*

My Lord,

AN extraordinary combination of rumours had contributed to the warlike feeling which appeared to have got the upper hand in the counsels of the Hellenic Government in the early part of last week.

When I enumerate those rumours, most of which have turned out to be either unfounded or greatly exaggerated, your Lordship will scarcely be surprised at the effect which they produced.

They principally consisted of—

The reported defeat of Suleiman Pasha and the consequently expected advance of the Russians upon Adrianople.

The mobilization of a portion of the Austro-Hungarian army, with a view to the occupation of Bosnia.

The departure of the British fleet from Besika Bay, and of troops from England.

The supposed intention of the Sultan to remove to Broussa, and the news of the panic which prevailed at Constantinople.

The alleged massacre of the Greek population of Kavarna.

The inclosed portion of the "Messager d'Athènes," containing extracts from letters published in other Greek journals, will show the manner in which the last-named incident was represented to the Greek public, and will easily account for the excitement and indignation to which it gave rise.

The news which has since been received from the seat of war, more particularly that of the defeats sustained by the Russians at Yeni-Zaghra and at Plevna, has materially contributed to calm the public mind and to cause the Hellenic Government and

people to doubt whether the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire can be as imminent as the rumours of last week had led them to suppose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 248.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(No. 192. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, August 9, 1877.*

THE recent successes of the Ottoman armies, and the check which has thus been put upon the advance of the Russians into Roumelia, have produced a feeling of satisfaction and relief in this country.

It is now considered that the war cannot be concluded in a single campaign, and that by next year the military preparations of Greece will be sufficiently completed to enable her either to take part in the war or to exercise some influence over the negotiations for peace.

It is further thought that territorial concessions are more likely to be exacted from Turkey, if the war is prolonged for another year, than if Russia obtained an easy and complete success in the present campaign, and that Greece will, therefore, have a better chance of obtaining the Hellenic Provinces of Turkey to which she aspires, than if she had now been precipitated, by the fear of losing her opportunity, into a war for which she knew herself to be totally unprepared.

Such feelings are certainly selfish, and they may be founded upon erroneous calculations; but it is natural enough that a small kingdom like Greece, with its irrepressible longing for the union of the whole Hellenic race into a larger and more important State, should hail every possible chance of attaining that object, without reference to any other interests than its own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 249.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16, 4·31 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 16, 1877, 2 P.M.*

OFFICIAL telegram reports the Emperor has removed his head-quarters to Gorni Studen, to which place the Grand Duke Nicholas has also gone. Nothing new at the army. All well.

No. 250.

Sir C. Wyke to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Copenhagen, August 16, 1877.*

RUSSIAN corvette "Bogatyr" recently arrived. Sailed this morning for Cronstadt.

No. 251.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Alexandria, August 16, 1877.*

VOLUNTEERS for the Greek army are leaving Egypt in considerable numbers by the Austrian and English steamers. About 300 have left, and more are going. Free passages are given to them by a Greek Committee, and the Greek Consul gives passports. Viceroy thinks if Greece declares war that all Greeks will be expelled from the Ottoman Empire.

No. 252.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 443.) *Foreign Office, August 16, 1877.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 883 of the 2nd instant, acquainting me with the denial of the Grand Vizier as to any orders having been given to the Turkish army in Asia that they should only spare women and children on entering Russian territory, and informing me that you have called on Consul Zohrab to give you his authority for the statement he made to you; and I have to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 253.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 247. Political. Confidential.) *Alexandria, August 9, 1877.*

My Lord,

THE Khedive's second son, Hussein Pasha, Minister of Finance, having been recommended change of air by his doctor on account of his health, has left Egypt in the yacht "Fayoum" for a cruize to Rhodes and the islands in the Archipelago.

His journey has given rise to rumours that he is sent by the Khedive on a mission to Constantinople, and that it is the prelude to the dispatch of several thousand more Egptian troops to Turkey.

The Khedive volunteered to give me in confidence the following information upon the subject when I saw him yesterday:

He said that there was no truth whatever in the rumoured object of his son's journey, which was simply dictated by reasons of health, but that it was true that he (the Khedive) was mobilizing a considerable force (some 12,000 or 16,000 men) which he might send to Turkey if urgent need arose for it.

Information had reached him from a good source that it had been the intention of Her Majesty's Government to send a military expedition to Turkey; if that intention had been carried out he would not have hesitated to send his force at once; as it was he should hold it in readiness for dispatch at the shortest notice, and meanwhile transports would be prepared for its conveyance.

In reply to my questions whether he would not thus completely denude Egypt of troops and seriously affect agricultural operations by so great a drain of able-bodied men, and whether the expense of such a large additional force could be met without trenching upon the resources pledged to his creditors, His Highness answered that sufficient troops would still remain for the police and defence of the country, and that although this extraordinary expenditure could certainly not be met by the budget, he hoped to be able to find means to meet it, and at the same time to fulfil his financial engagements. In any event and at such a moment he could not hesitate as to what was his duty.

If this additional force should be sent His Highness said it would bring up the Egyptian contingent in Turkey to about 36,000 men. The drain of so large a body of men must seriously cripple the country; but in view of your Lordship's instructions I have not thought it right to make any remonstrance.

His Highness also told me that Prince Hassan, finding that the Russians had abandoned, at all events for the moment, any intention of attacking Varna, and that there was little prospect of active service there, had applied to the Turkish Commander-in-chief for permission to go up to the front. The Khedive said he had highly applauded this resolution.

Several Greeks are leaving Egypt to enroll themselves as volunteers in the Greek army; I hear that the Greek Consul issued passports to about sixty two or three days ago.

Otherwise everything is quiet here, and the slight symptoms of ill-feeling against the Christians that have shown themselves in one or two districts have been promptly and vigorously suppressed by the authorities.

The satisfaction at the victory of the Turkish arms at Plevna has taken the

modest form of an earnest hope that their troops may now be able to hold their own, both in Europe and Asia Minor, until winter puts an end to this year's military operations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 254.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 917.) *Therapia, August 9, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Decree issued by the Turkish Government for raising a forced loan of 600,000,000 piastres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 254.

Decree issued by the Turkish Government for Raising a Forced Loan of 600,000,000 of Piastres.

Article 1. TOUS les sujets Ottomans, sans exception, sont tenus de participer à l'emprunt forcé qui est émis dans l'unique but de faire face aux dépenses de la guerre.

Art. 2. Cet emprunt forcé sera imposé à tous les sujets Ottomans en proportion de leur fortune et de leurs ressources.

Art. 3. L'emprunt jouira d'un intérêt annuel de dix pour cent et de cinq pour cent d'amortissement.

Art. 4. La somme totale de l'emprunt forcé sera de 600,000,000 piastres.

Art. 5. L'intérêt et l'amortissement seront payés sur l'impôt du verghi. Cet impôt figure dans le Budget de l'Empire pour une somme de 660,783 bourses. Sur ce total la somme de 180,000 bourses a été allouée, par Iradé Impérial, sur décision du Parlement, au service de cet emprunt.

Art. 6. En l'absence d'un moyen sûr d'apprécier et de fixer d'une manière exacte les biens et les richesses de chacun, les propriétés, les immeubles donnant un revenu, les profits commerciaux, les rentes qu'on touche au trésor sur des "séhims," "mukata'a," "ziamet," et "timar," ainsi que les appointements mensuels, seront considérés comme la base d'avoir et de richesses de chacun.

Art. 7. Les sujets Ottomans, sans exception, seront imposés pour une somme égale au verghi qu'ils payent annuellement à titre d'impôt foncier et d'impôt de métier. Ceux qui possèdent des "séhims," "mukata'a," "timar," et "ziamet" seront imposés à raison de dix pour cent sur leur revenu, et les fonctionnaires rétribués pour une somme égale à leur paye de deux mois.

Art. 8. Le montant tel qu'il résulte ainsi pour chacun des sujets Ottomans sera divisé en quatre portions égales et payé au commencement de chaque mois, à dater du mois de Juillet de l'année financière 1293 (1877). La perception sera faite par les percepteurs du verghi.

Art. 9. De même que les autres sujets Ottomans, les fonctionnaires rétribués sont tenus de participer à l'emprunt pour une somme égale à celle payée par eux annuellement à titre d'impôt foncier. Il en est de même pour les fonctionnaires qui possèdent des "séhims," "mukata'a," "timar," et "ziamet." En outre, ces fonctionnaires participeront pour une somme égale à deux mois des appointements dont ils jouissent. Ces sommes seront perçues par les préposés aux finances au commencement des mois de Juillet, Août, Septembre, et Octobre de l'année financière courante.

Art. 10. Tous les fonctionnaires et employés, grands et petits, sont soumis à cette règle. Ne sont exceptés que les soldats, les gendarmes, les sous-officiers et les officiers jusqu'au grade d'Adjutant-Major inclusivement. Les militaires d'un grade supérieur, ainsi que les généraux, participeront à l'emprunt comme le reste des fonctionnaires et des sujets Ottomans.

Art. 11. Les participants à l'emprunt forcé auront la faculté de payer en céréales au lieu d'argent. Les conseils locales fixeront le prix de ces céréales.

Art. 12. Les payements seront effectués en caïmé dans les provinces où le caïmé

est en circulation, et en beehlik ou métallique dans les provinces où le papier-monnaie n'a pas cours. Le genre de la monnaie payée sera mentionné sur les récépissés qui seront délivrés aux participants.

Art. 13. Le produit de cet emprunt, destiné aux dépenses de la guerre, ne sera pas mêlé avec les autres revenus de l'Etat. A la fin de chaque mois les sommes encaissées seront expédiées au Ministère des Finances. Ce dernier, conformément aux ordres qu'il recevra, enverra les sommes nécessaires aux corps d'armée contre reçus qui seront retournés et gardés au Ministère des Finances.

Art. 14. Les reçus provisoires qui seront délivrés seront numérotés et établis au nom du participant. Ils indiqueront la base de l'imposition, le genre de la monnaie payée et le quantième des versements. Ils seront imprimés et détachés d'un registre à souche et porteront le cachet des préposés aux finances.

Art. 15. Cet emprunt, qui jouit d'un intérêt annuel de 12 pour cent, sera éteint dans l'espace de douze ans. Les titres seront acceptées comme argent comptant des contribuables pour le payement des impôts.

Art. 16. Aussitôt après les quatre versements, c'est-à-dire au commencement du mois de Novembre de l'année financière 1293, les titres provisoires seront échangés contre des titres définitifs qui seront au porteur. Ils auront un numéro d'ordre et douze coupons d'intérêt et d'amortissement payables à la fin de chaque année.

Art. 17. L'intérêt et l'amortissement seront payés au commencement du mois de Novembre de chaque année sur la présentation du coupon, au Ministère des Finances ou aux caisses publiques de la province. Ces coupons seront aussi reçus par les caisses contre payement de toute espèce d'impôt.

Art. 18. Les titres à coupons qui seront livrés aux participants seront de quatre classes: de 50, 100, 500, et 1,000 piastres. Chaque titre portera douze coupons indiquant, en sommes égales, sauf le dernier coupon, l'intérêt et l'amortissement qui seront payés annuellement.

Art. 19. Toute réclamation précédente ou à venir au sujet de l'estimation des biens-fonds, ne sera pas prise en considération dans la répartition de l'emprunt.

Les étrangers peuvent à leur volonté devenir acquéreurs des titres de l'emprunt forcé. Ces titres leur seront livrés au prix nominal.

Article additionnel.—Bien que la loi prescrive qu'en dehors des soldats, des gendarmes, des sous-officiers, et des officiers, jusqu'au grade d'adjutant-major, les officiers supérieurs ainsi que les officiers généraux participeront à l'emprunt forcé; la Sublime Porte, considérant que la plupart de ces officiers se trouvent actuellement en face de l'ennemi, a décidé d'ajourner la participation de ces officiers.

Cette décision a été sanctionnée par Iradé Impérial.

No. 255.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 919.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

SINCE writing my despatch No. 916 of the 9th instant, I have seen Messrs. Marsh and Bond, the two American Missionaries who were at Eski-Zaghra at the time of the recapture of that town by the Turkish troops under Suleiman Pasha. They were good enough to call upon me. The account they gave me differed considerably from the reports that had reached me of the statements they had made as to the general and unprovoked massacre of the Christian Bulgarians of the place, thus furnishing an additional instance, if it were needed, of the manner in which events are exaggerated according to the views and interests of those who relate them.

The statement of these gentlemen to me was, in substance, to the following effect. The Russian force which first appeared before the town consisted of between 2,000 and 3,000 regular troops and Cossacks; they were accompanied by a large number of Bulgarians collected from the neighbouring villages. After taking possession of the town, the Turkish authorities having gone out to meet them and to surrender, further defence being impossible, they disarmed the Mussulman inhabitants and distributed their arms promiscuously amongst the Bulgarians. The latter began immediately to plunder the Turkish shops and to enter the Turkish houses. A great many Mussulmans appear to have been murdered, the Russians themselves shooting others, amongst them one woman, to the knowledge of my informants, on the ground that they had offered resistance. Mr. Bond places the number thus killed at about 100. If the Russian troops did not actively take part in the plundering they connived at it.

Other bodies of Russian troops with armed Bulgarians subsequently arrived, and Messrs. Marsh and Bond are under the impression that their total number in the town at one time must have been about 50,000. After the defeat of the Russians by Suleiman Pasha, and their retreat across the pass to Kyzanlik, the Turkish troops and irregulars entered the town and began to break into and plunder the Christian houses, and to kill the Bulgarians who attempted to resist or were found in arms. The place was set on fire, and the flames spread in all directions, burning the Mussulman and Christian quarters, mosques, churches, the public buildings, and the residences of the Turkish notables alike. The authorities, especially the Kaimakan (Saib Effendi), and the Emin Bey, or Pasha, did all they could for the protection of the Christians and of the missionaries and their families. Messrs. Marsh and Bond speak in the highest terms of them, and also of the great kindness of their Mussulman neighbours. As one of these gentlemen was passing through the streets on his way to the konak, or residence of the Governor, he was protected by the Mahommedans accompanying him from a Circassian horseman, who, after threatening him with his sword, and receiving a small sum of money, went his way. The residences occupied by the missionaries and their property appear to have been completely destroyed.

Messrs. Marsh and Bond are unable to state with anything like precision the number of Christian lives lost after the Turkish troops had retaken the town from the Russians; but they are under the impression that it must be very considerable, and that the retaliation upon the Bulgarians was excessively severe. The women and children appear, however, to have been spared, and to have been sent away by the authorities. My informants place the number of these fugitives at 6,000 or 7,000, if not more, and describe the scene as most heartrending. They themselves accompanied them to Adrianople, and Eski-Zaghra was enveloped in flames when they left it. This town, which is now entirely deserted by its inhabitants, was one of the most flourishing and prosperous in northern Roumelia, situated in an exceedingly rich and fertile district, which, with its numerous villages, has been entirely devastated. Eski-Zaghra contained between 20,000 and 25,000 inhabitants.

I showed Captain Fife's report to Messrs. Marsh and Bond. They admitted that the inhabitants of some of the Bulgarian villages between Eski-Zaghra and Kyzanlik were quite capable of committing the atrocities described by him, especially when protected and armed by the Russians, and they deplored the policy which had incited these people to rebellion and massacre, and then left them to the vengeance of the Turks.

It is much to be feared that Kyzanlik, Kalafer, and many other towns have shared the fate of Eski-Zaghra.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 256.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 17.)

(No. 921.) *Therapia, August* 10, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch which I have received from Consul Blunt, forwarding evidence which he has collected with reference to the atrocities committed by Russians and Bulgarians on the Mahommedan population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 256.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August* 6, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Excellency of the 1st instant, relative to the barbarities committed by the Russians and Bulgarians in the valley of the Toundja, I beg to inclose herewith the following documents bearing on the subject:—

1. Statement of occurrences at Muderisli (Caza of Kalofer), as related to Mr. Edmund Calvert by two inhabitants of that village.

2. Statement of occurrences at the village of Khidr-Bey (Caza of Eski-Zaghra), as related to Mr. Edmond Calvert by one of its inhabitants.

3. Translation of a telegram from Suleiman Pasha, relative to atrocities committed by Bulgarians at Christa, Büklümük, and other places in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra.

4. Statement of occurrences at Büklümük, as related to Mr. Edmund Calvert by two inhabitants of that village.

5 and 6. Despatches from Vice-Consul Dupuis, reporting the result of his inquiries among the fugitives from Eski-Zagra and elsewhere, relative to occurrences at those places.

7. Despatch from Acting Vice-Consul Calvert of Philippopolis, referring to Russian and Bulgarian barbarities at Muderrisli, Yeni-Mahalle, and other places.

8. List of the wounded Turkish women and children brought to Adrianople up to 5th August.

9. Translation of a telegram from the Kaimakam of Ferredjik, relative to the disappearance, under suspicious circumstances, of the families of two Turkish police officers with a zaptieh.

Although the above documents speak for themselves, in a great measure, it may be useful for me to offer some remarks on the different matters to which they relate.

With reference to the statement of occurrences at Muderrisli (Inclosure 1), I fear that the additional details obtained by Acting Vice-Consul Calvert (Inclosure 7), concerning outrages on Turkish women at that village, are likely to be too true. They are supported by statements made to Mr. Edmund Calvert, when at Philippopolis with me lately, by Osman Aga, a Lieutenant of Police, who accompanied the detachment which brought away the remaining Turkish inhabitants of Muderrisli. That officer said that when the troops arrived at the village the women were going about lamenting, and with their clothes torn, and that there had been violation among them. The circumstantial particulars furnished by reluctant eye-witnesses to Acting Vice-Consul Calvert can hardly now leave a doubt on that head. The silence of the inhabitants of Muderrisli, from whom Mr. Edmund Calvert obtained his information, both as to these cases and that of the death of the woman Aïshé through mutilation, is readily accounted for by the habitual reluctance of the Turks to speak of indignities to which any among them have been subjected. (It is this same feeling, I may add, which induces them to conceal from public knowledge, rather than to denounce, the mutilations constantly practised by the Montenegrins on their Turkish prisoners.) The number of killed at Muderrisli (30), as given by Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, is evidently correct, and it exactly agrees with that of the victims whose names Mr. Edmund Calvert's informants were able to furnish.

Suleiman Pasha, in his account (Inclosure 3) of the atrocities committed at Büklümük, mentions that the number of victims burnt to death in the barn was seventy. It is to be hoped that this estimate rather than the higher one, 174, given by Mr. Edmund Calvert's informant, may prove to be true, and that it may be found others have escaped besides the eleven men who are at present believed to be the only male survivors out of a population of 150 families. Mr. E. Calvert's informants are not in a position to give evidence as to the outrages which Suleiman Pasha states the Turkish women of Büklümük to have been subjected to. The Pasha's statement seems, however, borne out by the facts which have transpired with regard to the neighbouring village of Khidr-Bey, from which (as stated in Inclosure 2) five young women have been carried off by the Bulgarians.

With reference to the events at Eski-Zaghra (referred to in Inclosures 5 and 6), which formed the subject of my despatch to your Excellency of the 3rd instant, there can be no doubt that very great barbarities have been committed by the Bulgarians, with the tacit connivance of the Russians, if not at their instigation. But as I understand that Captain Fife was with Suleiman Pasha, when the Turkish forces reoccupied the town, your Excellency will no doubt have received from that officer more exact and circumstantial information than any which it is in my power to arrive at by sifting the various and appalling statements made by the terrified fugitives here.

As regards the massacre at Yeni-Mahalle, near Kyzanlik, referred to by Acting Vice-Consul Calvert (Inclosure 7), on comparing the information obtained by that gentleman with the statement furnished by Mr. Edmund Calvert from Kyzanlik (and which formed the inclosure to my despatch to your Excellency No. 69 of July 19) by inhabitants of that village who were eye-witnesses, it will be evident the former, obtained

at second hand, is a greatly exaggerated account. The same may be assumed to be the case with regard to the neighbouring village of Eskekdji. The statement, however, that the inhabitants of those villages offered resistance and killed three Cossacks, deserves attention, and is probably true.

The list (forming Inclosure 8) of wounded Turkish women and children, mostly from Khidr Bey, brought in up to yesterday, is a translation (with the omission of some irrelevant cases) of a paper furnished to me by the Vali of Adrianople. Of the thirty-two cases therein specified, twenty-seven were visited by Lieutenant Layard, who has, I believe addressed your Excellency a report on the subject.

The disappearance reported by the Kaimakam of Ferredjik (Inclosure 9) of the families of two Turkish police officers, with the zaptieh who was accompanying them, on the road between Ipsala and Enos, under circumstances which leave no doubt that they have been murdered, is chiefly important as having occurred in a remote district to the south, hitherto exempt from signs of political disturbance.

I may here mention that Mr. Scarborough, who came in from the front some days ago, informs me that the two surgeons of the National Aid Society, Drs. Leslie and Meyrick, have given him their authority to state that the Russians deliberately fired several shells at their ambulance when near Eski-Zaghra on the 30th ultimo. The ambulance was in a long train of bullock waggons; no troops were near them at the time, and the Society's flag, which can be seen five miles off, was flying. Happily no harm was done.

On the more general subject of the atrocities which are being committed on the Turkish population by the Cossacks and Bulgarians, I will conclude by observing that all this horrid work has naturally had the effect of exasperating the Moslems, and leading the Turkish and Circassian irregulars into savage acts of retaliation. This subject I propose to deal with in a separate report, the materials for which I am engaged in collecting.

I deeply regret to state that, in the northern districts of this vilayet, the hostilities have assumed the character of a war of mutual extermination. The Bulgarian peasantry, having committed themselves beyond hope of mercy, are reported to be everywhere retiring with the Russians, and massacring all the Turks within their reach as they do so. From all I hear, the Turkish irregulars, on the other hand, visit with indiscriminate vengeance such Bulgarians as they succeed in overtaking.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 256.

Statement of Occurrences at Muderrisli, a Mixed Village of 150 Turkish and 150 Bulgarian Houses, in the Caza of Kalofer, as related by Mollah Ibrahim and Mehmed Aga, Turkish Inhabitants of that Village.

ON Friday evening (July 20) firing on the hills was heard at the village. It was the Nizam troops retreating from Shipka. They passed through Muderrisli on their way to Philippopolis. During their halt at the village they searched the Bulgarian houses and found twenty-one Martini rifles, which they took away. On the departure of the Turkish troops, a detachment of about 150 Cossacks came to Muderrisli. They disarmed the Turks of the village and made over their arms to the Bulgarian villagers. They then left.

On the following day (July 22) they returned at 1 o'clock, Turkish time (8 A.M.). They were accompanied by the armed Bulgarian villagers and others from Kalofer and Karlova. A priest was conspicuous among them. The Bulgarians were now hardly distinguishable from the Russians. "All had become Cossacks;" some wearing busbies, others cloth shakoes. The combined force summoned the Turkish male inhabitants to assemble in one spot. They then opened fire on the defenceless mass and killed twenty-five of their number, together with three women and one child who had become mixed up with them. (The informants gave the names of sixteen of the men, two of the women, and the child, so killed.) In the meanwhile the Turkish houses were completely gutted, and the persons of the surviving Turks rifled by the Bulgarians. On the other hand, there was no violation of women, and the bains only of the Turks were burnt, not their houses. When the Bulgarians were robbing the above-mentioned informant, Mehmed Aga, they held, he states, a knife to his throat to make him declare what money and valuables he possessed. He gave

them his watch and 150 piastres, and they took his sash, jacket, and other clothing. When these ruffians were standing over him three Bulgarians, not inhabitants of the village, whom he knew, interceded for his life. These benefactors were one Puloglu Mitko, a tradesman of Karlova, Nalband Mitko, a farrier of Kalofer, and a carpenter also of Kalofer, whose name he does not remember. The Cossacks and Bulgarians then left together, the latter taking with them their wives and children and moveable property. They also carried off with them fifteen Turks of the village, with what object informants do not know.

On Monday (July 23) there arrived at the village a squad of seventy or eighty Turkish regular cavalry, who were sent to their rescue from Philippopolis, and, escorted by these troops, the remaining Turkish inhabitants of Muderrisli were brought away to Philippopolis in safety, but in an utterly destitute condition.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Philippopolis, July 27, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 256.

Statement of Occurrences at Khidr-Bey, a Mixed Village of 30 Turkish and 100 Bulgarian Houses, in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra, as related by Zeineb, wife of Fethad, a Turkish Inhabitant of that Village.

THE day after the Russians reached Yeni-Zaghra, two Cossacks came to the village, and firing two shots by way of signal, ordered the Turkish inhabitants to give up their arms to the Bulgarians. This was done. On Thursday last (July 26) at 9·30 Turkish time (4·30 P.M.), the Bulgarians came, telling us:—"Prepare for death! The Russians have given us permission to kill you all!" They then brought us to Khidrizoglu's house, a large one, putting the women and children inside the house, and the men in the courtyard outside. Among those of the village itself there were about fifteen fugitive families from Djambozli and Yassi-Viran, villages near Khidr-Bey. The Bulgarians began by firing upon the men, and killing them all. They then shot the women and children through the doors and windows of the room (on the ground floor) in which they had been shut up. The informant and three of her daughters, with their children, managed to escape being killed or hit by hiding themselves in a large cupboard, which was closed by thick, bullet-proof leaves. There were seven persons in the cupboard besides herself: her two married daughters, Aïske and Doudou, each with one child, her unmarried daughter Fatimé, and two other persons, who all escaped unhurt. The firing at last ceased; the informant supposes it was because the ammunition of the Bulgarians was exhausted, for many women and children still remained alive. The Bulgarians carried off these to a straw-barn, where they shut them up. They overlooked the party in the cupboard, which remained closed. When the informant and her party thought they could safely do so, they ventured out of the cupboard, and tried to escape unobserved. Three Bulgarians, however, saw them, and running, overtook them. They said:—"We do not want to take your lives, but we must have this girl for a bride," meaning the informant's daughter Fatimé, whom they laid hold of as they spoke. The girl clung to her mother, but the men having begun to threaten and to strike at them with a knife, which ripped up the sleeve of the informant's férédjé, the girl was compelled to relinquish her hold, and the Bulgarians carried her off. This was about an hour after sunset. The rest of the party then made the best of their way to Yeni-Zaghra, a distance of three hours, keeping off the roads, and hiding in vineyards as they went along. Mehmed Pasha has despatched a party of Circassians, accompanied by two of the surviving men of the village, in search of the missing girl.

Note.—From information obtained since the above account was given by Zeïneb, on the 1st August, it appears that only 13 men have escaped out of the 70 male inhabitants of Khidr-Bey. Of these, 10 fled on the first appearance of the Russians. The other three—Selimoglu Mustafa, Ashiroglu Hussein, and Khidrizoglu Salih—have not yet come to Adrianople. One Khalil, an inhabitant of Tchaly-Kioi, who happened to be at Khidr-Bey at the time, has also escaped by a miracle. His throat was cut, and he was left for dead. Although he has survived, he is not yet in a fit state to give evidence. Of the women and children (many being from Djambazli and Yassi-Viran) some 35 have survived, and no less than 22 of them are wounded. All are here except 5 women, all young and good-looking, who have been carried off by the Bulgarians.

Detachments of troops have been sent in search of these, and it is reported that one, the wife of a man named Salih, has been recovered, and is now on her way hither.

The survivors of the Khidr-Bey massacre were rescued on the same day (July 30) as those from Büklümük, which village is only half an hour distant from Khidr-Bey.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Adrianople, August 6, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 256.

Suleiman Pasha to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *Yeni-Zaghra, July 31/August 11, 1877.*

ON Friday (July 27?) the Russians forced the male and female Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Christa (distant one hour from Eski-Zaghra, towards Yeni-Zaghra) to quit their village. They then burnt to death all the men and some of the women, and put their bodies into a ditch, which they covered over with earth, and which I saw with my own eyes on passing through the village on our march. As for the other women, according to a Mussulman who was with them, and who managed to escape, they were carried off to the mountains. On receiving notice of this I at once sent off two battalions in search of the women. Although the Mussulman above-mentioned went with the troops, no traces of the women could be discovered.

Leaving the above-mentioned village I came to another named Büklümük in Turkish and Talvouka in Bulgarian. I there learnt from a Mussulman who had been lying concealed, and who came forth on our arrival, as also from some Bulgarian miscreants whom I caused to be seized, that the Bulgarians of the village had shut up in a straw-barn seventy Mussulmans, including the Imam of Büklümük. The Cossacks having surrounded the barn, the Bulgarians set it on fire, and the unhappy men who were in it were burnt alive. Forty-four others were massacred, and all the women of the village violated, by the Bulgarians. Eight women who resisted were killed, and two others were burnt with the men. As for the rest of the men and women, they set them in a row, placing a child by the side of each woman. The Bulgarians then massacred them all. I saw their corpses, and the impression of profound sorrow which the sight created in me can never be effaced. Captain Fife, the Military Attaché to the British Embassy, saw the bodies also. Two women and a child who had managed to conceal themselves, and thus escaped the cruelty of these Bulgarian traitors, were rescued by us. The Russians, when they occupied the country, took away the arms of the Mussulmans of Eski-Zaghra, Kyzanlik, and the neighbouring districts, and distributed them to the Bulgarians. The Mussulmans being thus disarmed, the Bulgarians within three days brought 400 of them to the banks of the Toundja, and there massacred them.

Having learnt from some Mussulman fugitives that, in addition to the above, further general massacres continue to be perpetrated by the Bulgarians on the Mussulmans at Eski-Zaghra, Kyzanlik, and other places, with circumstances of unheard-of atrocity, I lost no time in sending off in that direction a battalion of infantry with some mounted zeibeks and auxiliary troops. The infantry detachment having just returned, reports that the Russians have evacuated Kyzanlik and retreated to the Balkans. The zeibek cavalry are scouring the country around Kyzanlik in order to chastise the miscreant Bulgarians who continue the work of bloodshed, and to endeavour to save the remnant of the Mussulmans.

Inclosure 5 in No. 256.

Statement of Occurrences at Büklümük, a Mixed Village of 150 Turkish and 200 Bulgarian Houses, in the Caza of Eski-Zaghra, as related by Mehmedoglu Ahmed and Djafer, two Inhabitants of that Village.

1. *Account given by Mehmedoglu Ahmed (severely wounded on right arm), aged 22.*

ON the capture of Eski-Zaghra six Cossacks came to the village. The Turkish elders went out with the Bulgarian primates to meet them and make submission, all

being unarmed. The Cossacks ordered all the Mussulman inhabitants to give up their arms. These they collected and made over to the Bulgarians. The Cossacks then left. On the next day but one the Bulgarians surrounded the village, and in the evening as the Turks were coming out of the mosque ordered them to stay in it. They at the same time sent the Turkish women and children to the house and premises of one Ahmed Aga. The men and women were kept in their respective quarters for a week. The Bulgarians brought them bread and water, and day by day took from them on one pretext or another, money, articles of clothing, &c. In the village were nine Mustahfiz soldiers, inhabitants of the village, who on the capture of Kyzanlik had returned to their homes, bringing their rifles. These rifles had been given up with the other arms. After the lapse of a week 300 Cossacks came to the village at midnight. The Bulgarians asked for the military cloaks of the Mustahfiz to give to the Cossacks. They were immediately given up. The next day some young Bulgarians came summoning all the Turks in the mosque to leave it and to assemble at a spot called Vakyf, near the village. On this order being obeyed the Cossacks drew up on one side of the Turks and the Bulgarians (all armed with the arms taken from the Turks) on the other. When this had been done a Cossack, who knew Turkish, told them to go back to the mosque and have some food. The Cossacks then drew off from the spot leaving them with the Bulgarians. Instead of taking the Turks back to the mosque the Bulgarians conducted their captives to a straw barn ("samanlik"). They gave as a reason for this that they suspected arms were concealed in the mosque and that they wished to search it beforehand. They added that if they found any arms there they would kill all the Turks. (There was not a single arm of any kind in the mosque.) Thereupon the Bulgarians shut the Turks up in the barn, the informant amongst the rest. Looking out of the small windows the Turks then saw the Bulgarians bringing brushwood and heaping it around the barn. The Bulgarians next brought four cotton coverlets, which they placed among the brushwood, one at each corner of the barn. Lastly, they set fire to the four coverlets. The flames spread to the fuel and enveloped the building. The Turks meanwhile kept supplicating the Bulgarians to have mercy on them, to take their funds and property but to spare their lives. To these appeals the executioners answered not a word, but went on stirring up the fire. Those inside the barn then endeavoured to escape through the roof, by breaking the rafters, removing the tiles, and jumping down. Those who succeeded in getting out (about fifteen in number) were shot down as they did so with the exception of the informant. A younger brother of his, 20 years of age, was in the barn and the informant tried to persuade him to jump out with him, but the young man was paralyzed with horror and refused to move, saying, "Let me die here." The informant escaped being shot, but as he was running away he was met by one Nedeltcho, a grocer, with whom he had always been on friendly terms, who now attacked him with a knife. The fugitive appealed to him for mercy, saying, "Do not strike me, have we ever quarrelled?" Nedeltcho's only answer was to run his knife at Ahmed. The latter parried the blow with his arm, which was severely wounded; but continuing to fly he escaped with his life. So far as he knows he is the only survivor out of those who were in the barn. The informant does not know what became of the women and children.

Note.—The catastrophe at Büklümük appears to have occurred on the 26th of July. The informant Ahmed gave the above account of it on the 1st of August. Since the latter date it has been ascertained that out of the male population of Büklümük eleven have survived. These survivors state that they have reckoned up name by name those who have perished, and find that the number is 174. The bulk of these were burnt to death in the barn. Of the eleven surviving men there were seven who fled on the first approach of the Russians, and two who escaped from the flames besides the informant Ahmed. (These are, Ahmed Aganinoglu Ali and Mehmedoglu Ibrahim, both aged 20, and both now at Adrianople.) Lastly, there is one Djafer, who saved his life by concealing himself in the loft of the mosque, and whose remarkable and comprehensive narrative is given below.

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2. *Account given by Djafer, aged* 35.

When the Mussulmans were summoned out of the mosque, the informant, Djafer, remained in it, hiding himself in the loft. He removed tiles from the roof in different directions, and from this commanding position watched all that was going on. He observed that the village was surrounded by a cordon of about 300 Cossacks.

There were also several Cossacks among the Bulgarians within the village. He saw these last put the Turks into a barn. This was towards noon. They then collected brushwood around the barn and set it on fire, burning to death those within it. Many made their way through the roof and jumped down from it, but all were shot as they attempted to run away, except two or three, who managed to make good their escape. The barn was only about 100 paces from the mosque. At the same time the Bulgarians and Cossacks collected the Turkish women and children, and shut them up in two largish houses. After the lapse of three days, on Sunday (July 29), the day before the arrival of the Turkish troops to the rescue, the Cossacks and Bulgarians collected brushwood around the two houses and set them on fire, in the same way as they had done with the barn. The informant saw the women and children trying to escape from the flames, and the Bulgarians and Cossacks shooting them down as they did so. Among others killed in this way the informant saw his own little daughter, Aïshé, two and a-half years old. He could not see what passed within the houses, but has since learnt that although some escaped from the back and succeeded in concealing themselves behind a wall, most of the women and children perished in the flames. On the following morning the informant saw the Bulgarians bring out one Hadjioglu Youssouf Aga, the richest Turk in the village, whom it seems they had kept apart from the rest for the purpose which will appear. Some Cossacks were by, though none actively assisted in the proceedings. The Bulgarians conducted this Youssouf Aga to the well used by the Turks of the village, and which was near the houses in which the women and children had been burnt. It was about fifty paces from the informant's place of concealment. The Bulgarians began by taking from the Turk all the money he had on him and whatever else was worth having. One Yordan, a married man, son of Kiné, a Bulgarian Primate ("Tchorbadji") of the village, then came forward, and, first by coaxing him by promises to spare his life, next by threats, and then by gradually stabbing him till he was covered with blood, made him declare what money and valuables he possessed and had buried. When nothing more was left to declare, he begged for his life, which Yordan had promised him. He was answered that he must die, and ordered to lay his neck on the edge of the parapet of the well. Youssouf Aga, obeying, bent his head forward. Yordan said, "Not that way; turn round." Youssouf Aga then threw his head backward, and in that position Yordan cut his throat. After this, as the murdered man's daughter-in-law (whose husband is serving in the army) came running out towards the well, one Yovantcho, a young unmarried man, the son of Manuel, a Bulgarian of the village of no note, stabbed her in the back. When she had fallen dead, her murderer covered over her body with the branch of a plum tree. The informant saw nothing more that day till sunset, when the Turkish troops arrived. He then came down from the loft in which he had been lying concealed for five days, more dead than alive from terror and privation.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Adrianople, August 4, 1877.

Inclosure 6 in No. 256.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Adrianople, August* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report that at your request I was present this morning at the railway station, and witnessed the arrival of some 600 poor fugitive families from Eski-Zaghra, Christian, Jewish, and Mussulmans, the greater part, however, being women and children.

From these poor outcasts driven from their villages and homes by Russian and Bulgarian violence and brutality, I was able to gather that some 500 mounted Cossacks took possession of Eski-Zaghra about the middle of July, who, after seizing the Government stores and archives and disarming the Mussulman population, established a Bulgarian local Government, having for its chief a Russian officer.

The first act of this provisional Government, it would appear, was to condemn and execute ten Mussulmans. The day after it hanged four other Turks, as well as the Mufti and Mollah, and compelled eleven respectable Mussulmans in the custody of a Russian officer the while to be spectators of these scenes.

Simultaneously with these arbitrary acts it appears that the Bulgarians, with the connivance of the Russians, commenced attacking and pillaging the shops and houses

of the Jewish and Mussulman populations, and massacred two of the former people.

This state of things continued until the arrival of Suleiman Pasha about the 31st July, who retook the place, the town meanwhile taking fire. It is related that during the reign of terror in Eski-Zaghra a Jew of some note begged the protection of the Bulgarians of influence for his family against these acts of violence, but received for answer that they had no power to put a stop to them, and appealing subsequently to the Russian officer in command was told he could not interfere, as there was a Bulgarian Commission charged with those matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

P.S.—Since writing the above my French colleague tells me that, from information he has collected, he does not believe that more than 150 Turks have been killed in Eski-Zaghra.

J. H. D.

Inclosure 7 in No. 256.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to bring to your knowledge the following circumstances in connection with the occupation of Eski-Zaghra by the Russians and its recapture by Suleiman Pasha, related to me by a respectable member of the Israelite community of that place, who was present during those events.

Some 500 mounted Cossacks, under the command of a superior officer, entered Eski-Zagra about the 22nd July, followed at some distance by other 5,000 troops.

The Russians were met outside the town by the Kaimakam, Kadi, and other Turkish officials and notables, including Emin Pasha and the narrator to me of these events.

The deputation was positively assured by the Russians that no harm would be done to them; that they came as friends and deliverers, but that they must give up all arms and ammunition in the town, otherwise they would be compelled to resort to force if they refused. The deputation was detained until the delivery of the arms, which having no sooner been done, when they were distributed to the Bulgarians.

This movement was soon followed by the arrival of 400 armed Bulgarians from the villages of Derbent and Yeni-Mahallé, when a general assault was made on the houses and shops of Jews and Turks.

Later the same day Russians and Bulgarians went to the surrounding villages and farm-houses and set them on fire, a Russian officer looking on the while and watching operations through a field glass.

Early next morning further search was made in Eski-Zaghra in Turkish and Jewish houses for arms, but not finding any, they pillaged the dwellings and carried off all they could lay their hands on. The Jewish community appealed for protection against these acts of violence, but it was informed by the Russians that nothing could be done. A faint show, it would appear, was made to put a stop to pillaging, but was disregarded by the Cossacks and Bulgarians alike.

On the 25th of July the Russians ordered the execution of six Turks, and eighteen others accused of not having given up their arms were massacred by the Bulgarians. Turks found in the public streets were indiscriminately slaughtered, and my informant assured me that 50 Mussulmans, known to him, have in this manner been pitilessly killed by the Bulgarians. Pretended messages were sent to the Turks that they were wanted by the Russians, and no sooner outside their houses when they were set upon and cut down.

The shriekings and screamings of women and children were heard all night long, but as my informant was afraid to venture into the streets, he was unable to ascertain the cause. Mosques were openly desecrated and converted into stables, and the Korans torn up and thrown about by Bulgarians, who afterwards ascended the minarets howling, and drinking in wine to the health of the Russians.

Thence they proceeded to the synagogue, when they committed the greatest possible indecencies, and also tore into pieces the holy books.

Turkish females were seized in the streets and carried off to prison. One woman

was deprived of her "yashmak" by a jeering mob of Bulgarians, who afterwards hacked her to pieces. A Jew named Jacob Jehon was also killed by the Cossacks.

The narrator of these horrors states that at least some 500 Mussulmans must have perished at the hands of the Russians and Bulgarians during the occupation of Eski-Zaghra.

It would appear also that six Mussulmans were hanged the last day of occupation, and many more were about to share the same fate when the arrival of Suleiman Pasha released them from their fears, and put the Russians and Bulgarians to flight.

It is lastly shown that a part of the town taking fire during the attack made on it by Suleiman Pasha, the rest was deliberately set on fire in several places by the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 8 in No. 256.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopoli, July 30, 1877.

Sir,

THE interruption of the postal service and the prohibition by the Turkish Government under date of July 24, of all telegrams relating to the movements of troops, have prevented me from keeping you informed of the military movements which have occurred in this district since your departure from Philippopolis. On the 27th instant, in consequence of reported insurrectionary proceedings at Carlowa, Sopot, and Calofer, and other Bulgarian villages at the foot of the Balkans, a force was dispatched from here to that district consisting of 3 battalions of infantry, 450 men of the Philippopoli militia, 100 regular cavalry and 400 irregulars. These were joined in the course of yesterday and to-day by 500 more irregulars collected in the town of Philippopoli and the Pomak villages of Mount Rhodope.

No news has yet reached Philippopolis of the proceedings of this force. The Mutesserif assures me that both the regular troops and the Bashi-Bazouks have strict orders to fire only upon individuals resisting them or refusing to lay down their arms when called upon to do so—to hurt no women or children—and to abstain from setting fire to habitations save in cases of extreme necessity. I have reported to you the great unwillingness shown by the Turkish population in this district to volunteer as irregular troops. The recruiting agents, to shield themselves from ulterior responsability, demanded a "buyourldi" or written order, authorizing them to collect and assume the leadership of the irregulars, and this having been granted by Safvet Pasha, I believe the enlistment of Bashi-Bazouks is now proceeding with comparative activity.

Safvet Pasha left this morning by special train for Tchirpan, whither he had been summoned in all haste, taking with him three battalions of the late Shipka garrison.

Numerous and most conflicting reports are current here regarding the progress of affairs in the districts of Kezanlik and Zaghra. This much only appears certain, that small parties of Cossacks have arrived at Calofer, Carlowa, and Sopot; that they have armed the Bulgarian population there with weapons taken from the Turkish killed and from the Mussulman villages; and that the Bulgarians of these three populous and prosperous villages have received the Russians with great manifestations of joy. The inhabitants of Calofer are reported to have killed between 300 and 400 wounded soldiers and stragglers from the retreating Shipka force, and to have taken their arms. They moreover took part in the attack on the Turkish village of Mederessli.

The refugees from this village give very sober and concordant accounts of the affair. I have at different times examined above a dozen of them, both men and women. They agree in stating that the slaughter was committed solely by the Bulgarians, the few Cossacks who assisted taking but a passive share in the transaction; nineteen men and two women in all, according to the latest information, were killed by the insurgents, one of the women, Aishé, wife of Jambay Yussuf, having her breast cut off and dying under the operation. All the women were subjected to great indignity, having their veils torn off and being stripped completely from their waists downwards in the search for money and valuables. Two only, however, were violated, both by Bulgarians. One of these, Fatimeh, a married

woman, whose husband is serving as a conscript in the army, I have seen and questioned, and she did not hesitate to avow her misfortune.

The case of the other was related to me by the father of the victim, a girl of 18. The old man, Hussoglo Mustapha, climbed a tree while the slaughter was taking place and hid himself among the branches. While in this place of concealment his daughter was dragged under the tree and ravished under his eyes. This witness told his story with great apparent reluctance, and burst into an uncontrollable fit of sobbing at the end of it.

I have also examined Turkish peasants from the villages destroyed by Russians and Bulgarians near Kyzanlik; in the Mussulman villages of Eshektchi and Yeni-Mahaleh, distant a quarter of an hour from each other, and one hour from Hain-Boghaz, a general massacre of the inhabitants appears to have taken place.

Three Cossacks having been killed by the villagers, the enemy set fire to the houses, completely destroyed the two villages, and made such a slaughter, that only ten persons escaped out of Esektchi, and not a soul from Yeni-Mahaleh.

A few, however, of the inhabitants were, it is reported, carried away by the Russians in the Pass. The witness from whom I got these particulars is a Turk of Eflehanli, a mixed Christian and Mussulman village of 300 houses, about two hours from Esektchi. To try and save his brother and sister-in-law, who lived in the latter village, he went in a cart thither and succeeded in getting them safely out of the village, just as the enemy were entering it.

Three days afterwards the Russians and insurgents came also to Eflehanli, and burnt the whole Turkish quarter. No carnage took place there, however, the Mussulmans having all fled to Kyzanlik. During the last week Mussulman fugitive families have been flocking continually to this town from the villages within Carlowa district. There cannot be less than 5,000 of these unfortunate people at present in Philippopoli; many of them have been thoroughly plundered by the insurgents; very few have the means of subsistence; the Government distributes to them daily meagre rations of bread, and has quartered them in the hans and in the Turkish houses. The circumstances above detailed preclude the possibility of a doubt as to the active part taken by the Bulgarians of the north and north-eastern parts of this sandjak in the operations against the Turks. Apparently, judging from the small force they have sent across the Balkans, the Russians counted upon such co-operation. The Bulgarians, at the sight of the invaders, rashly deeming that it was all over with the Turks, seem to have readily taken up arms. To any one acquainted with the Bulgarian character, it is plain that, however numerous and well-armed, they could, unassisted, make but a feeble stand against Turkish troops, or even irregulars; and if the fortune of war should turn against the Russians, the unfortunate people of Carlowa and Calofer may draw down upon themselves a terrible retribution. The Mutessarif of Philippopoli, while assuring me that the strictest orders have been given to the Turkish troops to commit no unnecessary slaughter, yet states himself to be doubtful whether, after the massacres of Turkish peasants that have occurred, their officers will be able on all occasions to control them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 256.

List of Wounded Women and Children now at Adrianople.

(Furnished to Consul Blunt by the Vali of Adrianople.)

(Translated Abstract.)

1. ZEINEB, aged 1½ years, daughter of Tahir Aga, of Eski-Zaghra, wounded at Khidr Bey whilst in her mother's arms. Bullet wound across the eyebrow.

2. Khadijé Khanum, wife of Hadji Hafiz Ahmed Aga, of Eski-Zaghra, wounded at Khidr Bey, in the left hand. (This woman's husband was cut in pieces.)

3. Mehmed, aged 3 years, son of the above, wounded whilst in his mother's arms. Bullet wound in left arm. (His brother Selim was killed.)

4. Fatimé, wife of Abdul Kerim, of Djambazli, wounded at Khidr Bey, where she had arrived on her way to Eski-Zaghra from her village. Bullet wound in the fore-arm.

5. Aïshé, wife of Halimoglu Mustafa, of Djambazli, wound at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the thigh. (This woman's husband was killed.)

6. Meriem, wife of Ahmed Aga, of Djambazli, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the heel.

7. Zeïneb, aged 9 years, daughter of Rustem, of Djambazli, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the side. (This girl's mother and her brother Rustem were killed.)

8. Lebibé, wife of Ali, of Khidr Bey, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the head.

9. Zekié, aged 4 years, daughter of Hussein, of Yassi Viran, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the right arm. (Her father was killed.)

10. Edibé, wife of Osman, of Simanly, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in left fore-arm. (An infant of three months was killed in its mother's arms by the same shot.)

11. Djemilé, wife of Yakasi-yirlikoglu Suleïman, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the knee.

12. Fatimé, aged 2½ years, daughter of Araboglu Mehmed Ali, of Djambazli, wounded at Khidr Bey. Wound in the head, received whilst in her mother's arms.

13. Sherifé, wife of Arnaout Islam, of Khidr Bey. Wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the back.

14. Eminé, aged 3 years, daughter of the above, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the lips.

15. Shefiké, aged 14 years, daughter of Ali Effendi, of Eski-Zaghra (schoolmaster at the village of Djambazli), wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the inner side of the thigh.

16. Rizvan, aged 12 years, son of Kodja Mehmed Ali, of Djambazli, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the right heel. (This boy's father was killed.)

17. Fatimé, wife of Mirzaoglu Hassan, of Yassi-Viran, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wounds in the right and left thighs. (This woman's husband was burnt alive at Büklümük.)

18. Fatimé, wife of Menishoglu Hussein, of Yassi-Viran, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the back. (This woman's husband was killed.)

19. Djemilé, wife of Khalil-oglu Mehmed, of Khidr Bey, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the right inner side of the thigh.

20. Salik, aged 10 years, son of Ouzounoglu Hassan, of Khidr Bey, wounded at Khidr Bey. Bullet wound in the elbow, which is broken. (This boy's father was killed.)

21. Fehim, aged 10 years, son of Ferhad, of Khidr Bey, wounded at Khidr Bey. Slugs in the arm. (This boy's father was killed.)

22. Fatimé, aged 14 years, daughter of Nizam Mustafa, of Khidr Bey, wounded at Khidr Bey. Slug wounds. (This girl's father was killed.)

23. Sadika, wife of Abdul Kadr, of Büklümük, wounded at Büklümük. Bullet wound in the right heel. (This woman was shut up by the enemy in a room with other women of the village. The house having been set on fire, she escaped from it, and was wounded as she was running away. Her husband was killed.)

24. Shefiké, aged 3 years, daughter of Tahir Aga, of Büklümük, wounded at Büklümük. Wound in the right thigh.

25. Hafizé, wife of Veli, of Büklümük, wounded at Büklümük. Dagger wounds in the head.

26. Aïshé, aged 5 years, daughter of the above, wounded at Büklümük. Dagger wounds on both sides of the head.

27. Sherifé, wife of Edris, of Büklümük, wounded at Büklümük. Dagger wounds on both sides of the head, and across the eyebrows.

28. Zeïni, } both of Muslim Touckhan (district of Eski-Zaghra), and both
29. Fatimé, } wounded (locality not stated), in the foot.

30. Zuleikha, aged 1½ to 2 years, daughter of Eminé, of Eshekdji, a village at the foot of the Hain Pass, wounded (locality not stated) in both feet with a bullet, and in the left foot with a bayonet.

31. Fatimé, daughter of Abdullah, of Gulfar, a village in the Caza of Tirnovo, wounded (locality not stated) by a bullet in the shoulder.

32. Rahimé, of Sarbanly, a village in the Caza of Kyzilagatch, wounded at Kyzil-Yenidjé, where she and others had halted on their way to Adrianople. As they were taking water from the Tonndja, shots were fired at the party from the other side of the river. Bullet wounds in the shoulder.

The above is a complete list of the wounded women and children at Adrianople at the present date (August 5, 1877.) Some others are in the villages towards Philippopolis. We learn that others again are coming by to-day's train. On their arrival we will furnish you a further list.

Inclosure 10 in No. 256.

The Kaïmakam of Ferredjik to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *July* $\frac{18}{30}$, 1877.

IT was reported to me this morning that the following persons left Enos for Ipsala, a distance of six hours, four days ago, and had not yet reached their destination: two daughters of Ahmed Tchaoush, chief officer of police at Enos, the wife of Mustafa Onbashi with two children, and her brother-in-law. These left together in a bullock waggon and were accompanied by a mounted gendarme, who had also disappeared.

Upon receiving information of this fact, I dispatched a detachment of police to investigate the matter, and at the same time sent notice to the Kaïmakan of Enos and the Mudir of Ipsala. The latter official informs me this evening by telegraph that at a spot named Terestouna, which is on the borders of the Caza of Enos, five pools of blood have been discovered with drops leading down to the edge of the Marizza River, as also the mantles of the children, in a torn state. Nothing could be ascertained as to what had become of the waggon.

I am now starting without delay to follow up the inquiry in every direction which is likely to furnish a clue to the perpetrators of the crime that has evidently been committed; and although it is now some days old, I hope my earnest endeavours to discover the guilty parties may prove successful.

No. 257.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 15. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, August 13*, 1877.

BY a letter received this forenoon from Janina, conveying the friendly remembrances and salutations of the Governor-General, Abdi Tcherkess Pasha, I am informed that "an outbreak in Epirus is regarded as imminent, and that the province cannot be regarded as secure for travellers or sportsmen."

2. Under yesterday's date, Vice-Consul Onofrio reports from St. Maura as follows:—

"Christian Rayahs from Epirus come over in great numbers to enlist as volunteers in the Greek army; some by way of Vonizza and Carvassera, others from Prevesa direct here. The Turkish authorities are now prohibiting the Rayahs from leaving the country, unless on giving security not to enlist in the Greek army.

"The panic of the Christians in consequence of this measure is excited to the highest pitch, but, unarmed as they are, they do not feel disposed to listen to the suggestions of the 'Committee,' in whom they do not place such implicit confidence as heretofore. So long, therefore, as Greece does not take the lead and is not in a position to send a sufficient force to support them, they will not rise.

"This, at least, I gather from reports on which I have reason to place every reliance.

"Meanwhile the well-to-do Christian inhabitants, apprehensive of pillage at a given moment, as well by friends as foes, have sent away all their valuables.

"Russian emissaries are as active as ever."

The expected uniforms, &c., for the new levies have not yet arrived, to the great disappointment of the Commandant and of the men themselves. No attempt is being made to place the fort in a proper state of defence, but drilling is going on regularly twice a-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 258.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 17.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 16 Août*, 1877.

UN télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte par les autorités de Philippopoli donne les informations suivantes sur le traitement auquel les Russes ont soumis la population Musulmane dans le district de Kizanlik. Les troupes expédiées pour délivrer la population Musulmane des villages situés sur la route de Kalofer à Kizanlik ont recueilli les hommes Aissi-Pehlivan et Hassan, tous deux blessés, le premier gravement. Il résulte des dépositions de Hassan que les Bulgares ont désarmé tous les Musulmans des villages sus-mentionnés et des environs, et après les avoir tous enfermés, hommes, femmes et enfants dans une mosquée, les ont attachés les uns aux autres par les bras, au moyen de leurs ceintures, et les ont ensuite égorgés à coups de poignard. Aissi et Hassan ont pu seuls échapper au massacre.

No. 259.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 17.)

(No. 348.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, August 17*, 1877, 11·20 A.M.

TO ensure efficiency of its measures for prevention of trade in contraband of war, Porte has decided that merchant-vessels passing through Bosphorus to Black Sea must hand to Captain of the Port of Anatoli Kavak the firman with which they must be provided for the passage of the Straits. Every vessel infringing this order will be stopped by the forts.

No. 260.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Kirby Green.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17*, 1877.

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings with respect to the alleged barbarous treatment of some Albanian children by the Montenegrins, as reported in your despatch No. 94 of the 25th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 261.

The Earl of Derby to Consul Freeman.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 17*, 1877.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 57, Consular, of the 4th instant, transmitting a memorandum by Vice-Consul Cooper on the military situation and communications in Bosnia, and I have to instruct you to convey to Vice-Consul Cooper my approval of the manner in which he has drawn up this report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 262.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 448.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, August 18*, 1877.

THE German Ambassador called here this morning and read a telegram from his Government, stating that the German officers at the Russian headquarters have corroborated the statements made that in the battles at Plevna and in the Balkans the Russian soldiers who fell into the hands of the Turkish regular troops were mutilated

and killed. The German Government thinks this contrary to the Geneva Convention, which was adhered to by the Porte, and has instructed the German Ambassador at Constantinople to bring these facts to the notice of the Porte, and to express the hope that the Turkish Commanders will prevent a repetition of such deeds.

Count Münster inquired whether Her Majesty's Government would make similar representations at Constantinople.

Your Excellency will inform the Porte of the communication which has been made by the German Government to Her Majesty's Government, and will state that if it be true that such acts have been committed, the strictest orders should be issued to prevent a recurrence of them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 263.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 18, 1877, 10 P.M.*

RUSSIAN General Fadeieff expected again here.

Russian Secretary of Legation at Athens appointed Diplomatic Agent in Servia. This augurs ill for preservation of peace by Prince Milan—even friends of this Government admit great probability of Servian aggression on Turkey ere long, and suppose that Austria will wink at such a proceeding. Want of money present greatest difficulty for war, as there is no confirmation yet of a Russian subsidy, which is, however, expected. Sent to Constantinople.

No. 264.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, August 18, 1877, 4 P.M.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has received orders to proceed immediately to Constantinople, and he does not apparently expect to return here, though he professes to be ignorant of the reason for his recall. A Secretary at Berlin has been ordered to Vienna as Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 265.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, August 18, 1877.*

PRINCE HASSAN, with an Egyptian force, is threatening Soulina, in consequence of which the order to recall General Zimmerman's force from the Dobrudsha has been cancelled.

No. 266.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 19.)

(No. 350.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 19, 1877, 3·30 P.M.*

CAPTAIN FIFE telegraphs that on the 17th, after a great battle, Turks took possession of Kyzanlik.

No. 267.

Consul Watkins to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

My Lord, *Larnaca, August 9, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches I addressed this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with reference to the outrage committed by the Mulazim Hassan Bey, at Baffo, and the calling out of 2,450 Redifs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. WATKINS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 267.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, August 3, 1877.*

REFERRING to my despatch of the 10th July last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received the report of Vice-Consul Loïso, of Limassol, confirming the outrage committed by the Mulazim at Baffo on the person of the Moukhtar on the 2nd July, and the death of his victim two days after.

On the receipt of his communication I proceeded to Nicosia on a visit to the Pasha on this matter, who promised that the officer should be duly tried and punished.

His Excellency the Pasha informed me that he had already despatched the Colonel of zaptiehs to inquire into the circumstances, and to bring him to Nicosia.

I beg, however, to inform your Excellency that the Colonel is very leniently inclined towards the Mulazim; and certainly fulfilled his order in so far that he conducted him to Nicosia, but not as a prisoner, rather as an equal, as he allowed him to ride with him in perfect freedom and in possession of his sword.

From what I can learn so far, it appears that the Colonel and his colleagues at the seraglio are doing their utmost to prove that the Mulazim was not guilty of killing the man, but that he died accidentally, and so he will no doubt escape the penalties which his crime deserves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. WATKINS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 267.

Consul Watkins to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Larnaca, August 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Kaïmakam of the troops received a telegram from Constantinople on the 30th ultimo requesting him to call out immediately 2,450 Redifs.

The Governor of the island has telegraphed to Constantinople to inquire whether they will be permitted to find substitutes or be entirely exempt from serving on payment of a certain sum, as the men are very loth to respond to this call.

The Redifs have been told that they are only required for the defence of Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHAS. WATKINS.

No. 268.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 74. Political.)
My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, August 8, 1877.*

AFTER two hours and a-half fighting Ismet Pasha occupied Carni Potok on Saturday the 4th instant. The insurgent losses are estimated at 100 killed and 200 wounded, whereas the Turks had only six killed and ten wounded, besides eleven

missing. The Turks have taken 2 old cannon, 1,000 rifles, 67 boxes of ammunition, provisions, &c. During the combat the Turkish troops unavoidably occupied the tops of some hills on Austrian territory. About 3,000 insurgents, with their leader Despotovich, are said to have fled across the frontier in the direction of the village of Drenovac. The whole affair was witnessed by some Austrian troops and the inhabitants from two villages near the frontier. Ismet Pasha has informed Generals Rodich and Mollinary and requested that the insurgents be disarmed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 269.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 320. Most Confidential.)

Berlin, August 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour of dining with their Majesties the Emperor and Empress at Babelsberg.

After dinner the Emperor told me how deeply he regretted the difficulties his nephew the Czar was in, difficulties due to faults in strategy, and which, unfortunately, would prolong the war, and necessitate a second campaign. He thought it would take full six weeks before the Russian army could attempt any serious operations, and the new Krupp guns the Czar had ordered would not be ready before next year.

From Krupp himself he learnt that the Turks had better field-pieces than the Russians.

His Majesty went on to say that he had been sincerely gratified at Ischl to find the Emperor of Austria as much concerned as himself about the present distressing position of the Czar, and quite determined to adhere to a neutral policy, and not to interfere unless the interests of Austria rendered interference unavoidable. The attitude of Austria, His Majesty said, was therefore the same as that of England at present, and he had been glad to learn that England and Austria were of one mind in regard to the war.

His Majesty added that he had read the Earl of Beaconsfield's last speech in the House of Lords with sincere satisfaction, and rejoiced to find England, Germany, and Austria were now practically following an identical policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 270.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 447.)

St. Petersburgh, August 14, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article in French translation from the Russian "Petersburgh Gazette" on the attitude of the neutral Powers in the present conflict.

It is herein stated "that there is reason to believe that neither England nor Austria are disposed to assist Turkey in prolonging her existence, but that both are decided to watch carefully the progress of events with a view to claim their right of participating in the reorganization of the Balkan peninsula.

"It is observed that even the Sultan is fully persuaded that both England and Austria are chiefly occupied in safe-guarding their own interests."

The article then continues as follows:—

"The conditions laid down by the Porte for accepting the good offices of England and Austria, namely, the signature of a formal Treaty of alliance, are known. Nothing of the kind, however, is likely, and it is evident that if the two Powers were really concerned for the integrity of the Turkish Empire they would not await the termination of the war to assist the Porte.

"It is further known that any intervention in favour of Turkey would be unpopular in England and incapable of execution for Austria. If warlike demonstrations in those two countries suddenly appeared they arose from a belief that

the last hour of Turkey's existence had sounded, and that the moment had come for a supreme consultation.

"The question is not whether the Mussulman rule has any chance of maintaining itself in Europe, but that of founding on a new basis the political organization of the Balkan populations.

"Therein lies the whole difficulty. It is not only Russia, but all Europe, that is endeavouring to put an end to the saturnalia of the Turks, consequently nothing can save the Porte.

"Whether many Powers join in order to suppress the oppression of the Porte, or one Power takes upon itself to destroy it, is of little consequence. But what is to take its place? This is the problem now to be solved. Turkey's existence is at stake, and she turns to her own account the state of uncertainty in which the European States are placed in regard to it."

This article gives pretty faithfully the general tone of public opinion here in regard to Turkey in Europe. It points to the complete subversion of Mussulman rule and the establishment in its place of Christian Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

LA "Gazette (Russe) de St. Pétersbourg" explique de la manière suivante l'attitude des Puissances neutres dans le conflit actuel:—

"La modification d'aspect de la campagne du Danube a fait surgir des indices qui permettent de préjuger les intentions des Puissances neutres par rapport à la question d'Orient. On est, dans une certaine mesure, autorisé à croire que, ni l'Angleterre, ni l'Autriche, ne sont portées à aider la Turquie, à prolonger son existence; mais par contre, l'une et l'autre, sont tout à fait décidées à observer avec la plus grande attention les péripéties de la guerre, afin de faire valoir leur droit à participer à l'organisation du nouvel ordre de choses dans la presqu'île des Balkans. Le Sultan lui-même a, paraît-il, acquis la conviction que l'Angleterre et l'Autriche, fort peu soucieuses de lui venir en aide, ne sont préoccupées que de leurs intérêts respectifs. On connaît la condition posée par la Porte à l'acceptation des offres de bonne amitié de l'Angleterre et de l'Autriche: la signature d'un Traité d'alliance formelle. Or, rien de semblable n'est prêt d'être libellé. Le bon sens indique que si l'intégrité de la Turquie était l'objet des pensées de ses officieux amis, ceux-ci n'attendraient pas l'issue de la guerre entre la Russie et leur soi-disant protégée pour prendre fait et cause pour cette dernière. Cependant il est un fait que chacun sait: c'est qu'une intervention en faveur de la Turquie est impopulaire en Angleterre, irréalisable pour l'Austro-Hongrie. Si des démonstrations guerrières ont retenti tout-à-coup dans ces deux pays, c'est qu'on avait cru y entendre sonner la dernière heure de la Turquie et que l'on supposait le moment venu pour une consultation suprême. La question ne consiste pas à savoir si la domination Musulmane a des chances de se maintenir en Europe; il s'agit de fonder, sur des bases nouvelles, l'organisation politique des peuples des Balkans. Toute la difficulté est là. Ce n'est pas la Russie seule, nous le répétons, mais l'Europe entière qui veut mettre fin aux saturnales des Turcs. Par conséquent, rien n'est susceptible de sauver la Porte, son rôle est terminé. Que plusieurs concourent à supprimer cette oppression sauvage ou qu'une seule Puissance prenne sur elle de l'anéantir, peu importe. Mais après? Tel est le seul problème qui s'impose à l'heure qu'il est. La Turquie jouit de son reste et profite de l'état d'incertitude que cette question crée aux Etats Européens."

No. 271.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 449.)

St. Petersburgh, August 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith from the "Agence Russe," an article from the "Golos" on the Imperial interview at Ischl.

Although this interview was a mere exchange of courtesies between the two

Sovereigns and had no special political object, it is apparent that its result has been to confirm the good understanding existing between the three Emperors, and to remove any doubt that may have existed in regard to the policy of Austria during the present war.

I was unable yesterday at my interview with M. de Giers to ascertain anything positive in regard to the action of Servia.

His Excellency stated that the Imperial Government had exercised their influence at the commencement of the war to induce Servia to maintain her neutrality. He observed that at the present moment the diplomacy was much blamed for restraining Servia, for it could render now considerable service by moving in the rear of Osman Pasha.

From this last observation and from other circumstances which have come to my knowledge, I am induced to believe that the military party at head-quarters, acting under Slavonic influences, is working to overcome the scruples of the Imperial Government which have hitherto tended to restrain Servia from participating in the war, in order not to embarrass Austria.

The position of Servia is rendered more difficult by the declaration of independence by Roumania, and it is evident that unless Servia can be assured of obtaining the same advantages as Roumania by remaining neutral, she will inevitably seek to insure them by engaging in the war.

The policy of Austria in this question will be decisive. It is reported by the press that the Cabinet of Vienna has consented to leave Servia freedom of action, but I can scarcely believe that Austria has taken this course unless under stipulations which will hereafter safeguard her interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 271.

Extract from the "Golos."

LE "Golos" s'exprime de la manière suivante sur l'entrevue d'Ischl :—

"Les cercles politiques de l'Occident prédisent une grande portée à l'entrevue qui a eu lieu, le 8 Août, à Ischl, entre l'Empereur Guillaume et l'Empereur François-Joseph. Beaucoup sont persuadés que les deux Souverains y auront arrêté la ligne de conduite à suivre par rapport aux événements d'Orient. Il est fort possible que l'Empereur François-Joseph, avant de se départir de son attitude d'expectative, ait tenu à raffermir ses convictions quand au moyen de maintenir intacte l'alliance entre les trois Empereurs. Dans ce cas, il est naturel que le chef de la Monarchie Austro-Hongroise ait songé à un échange d'idées avec l'Empereur d'Allemagne, lequel représente, pour ainsi dire, l'arbitre entre les deux alliés plus directement intéressés au dénouement de la question Orientale. Si ces suppositions sont fondées, on peut en déduire que l'entrevue d'Ischl est susceptible de conduire à une résolution décisive de la part de l'Autriche, ce qui, selon nous, ne saurait nuire à la Russie; mais, au contraire, élargirait sa liberté d'action dans la Péninsule. Nous sommes entretenus dans cette conviction, aussi bien par les faits qui se sont déroulés jusqu'à présent que par la notion des conséquences que l'Autriche encourrerait à sortir de la triple alliance pour prendre ouvertement parti en faveur de la Turquie.

"De deux maux on choisit ordinairement le moindre. Or, il est incontestable que le Gouvernement de Vienne trouvera moins de désavantage à supporter la création dans la Péninsule des Balkans de quelques Etats plus ou moins indépendants, que de prendre position contre la Russie et d'autres Puissances convaincues que le joug Musulman en Europe est un obstacle insurmontable au rétablissement d'une paix de longue durée.

"Nous avons eu à plusieurs reprises l'occasion d'appuyer notre dire de preuves irréfragables, nous n'y reviendrons point aujourd'hui. Bornons-nous à signaler comme un indice sérieux de la situation l'apaisement soudain de la fièvre Turcophile en Angleterre. Jusqu'à la clôture de la Session Parlementaire il ne reste qu'une semaine, et cependant aucune résolution extrême ne s'est encore fait jour. Les journaux du parti ont mis une sourdine à leur voix; on n'en est plus à soutenir la nécessité d'une occupation de Gallipoli par les troupes Anglaises; l'envoi de renforts dans les forts de la Méditerranée se borne à des chiffres insignifiants; enfin, la flotte Britannique ne montre aucune velléité de franchir les Dardanelles. Tout indique que

les amis des Turcs au sein du Cabinet Britannique ont reconnu l'impossibilité d'entraîner le pays dans une intervention armée en faveur de la Porte et ont sagement pris leur parti de l'attitude expectante qui leur est imposée."

No. 272.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 451.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, August 15, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a circular despatch (officially published by the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg") addressed by M. Nelidow, Chief of the Diplomatic Chancery of the Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander-in-chief of the Southern Army, to the Russian Representatives at London, Berlin, Vienna, and Paris, dated $\frac{1}{13}$th July, transmitting a copy of a Protocol signed by several foreign newspaper correspondents in refutation of the reported cruelties said to have been committed by the Russian troops, and requesting them to give the widest publicity to this document.

Although a copy of this official despatch will probably have been already communicated to your Lordship, I have thought it desirable to report its official publication by the Imperial Government and to forward the annexed copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 272.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{July}}{\text{August}}$ 1877.

St. Pétersbourg, le 29 Juillet, 1877.

COPIE d'une dépêche adressée par son Excellence M. le Conseiller d'Etat Actuel Nélidow, Chef de la Chancellerie Diplomatique près son Altesse Impériale Monseigneur le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Sud, à MM. les Ambassadeurs de Russie à Berlin, à Vienne, à Paris, à Londres, et à Rome, en date de Tirnovo, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Juillet, 1877 :—

"M. l'Ambassadeur,

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman fait publier dans les journaux Européens une série des dénonciations mensongères des prétendues cruautés qui auraient été commises par nos troupes.

"Cherchant évidemment à surprendre par cette manœuvre honteuse la bonne foi du monde civilisé et détourner les accusations que sa propre armée a méritées, la Porte a cependant été impuissante à empêcher que la vérité se fît jour elle-même.

"A part plusieurs cas de barbarie Turque déjà signalés par la presse, dernièrement encore, nos troupes, en occupant les batteries du défilé de Schipka, y ont trouvé un amas de têtes de soldats Russes dont les corps mutilés furent découverts dans les alentours. Le fait a été constaté par quelques officiers étrangers attachés à nos colonnes, ainsi que par des correspondants de journaux Européens qui en ont dressé un procès-verbal en règle.

"En transmettant ci-après à votre Excellence une copie de cette pièce, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier, M. l'Ambassadeur, d'ordre de Monseigneur le Grand Duc Commandant-en-chef, de vouloir bien faire donner au procès-verbal en question la plus large publicité dans la presse du pays de votre résidence.

"'*Kazanlyk, le* $\frac{9}{21}$ *Juillet*, 1877.*

"'Etrangers admis à suivre les opérations de l'armée Russe, comme représentants de quelques-uns des principaux organes de la presse Européenne, nous croyons de notre devoir de constater publiquement les actes de barbarie commis par les troupes régulières Ottomanes chargées de la défense du défilé de Schipka.

"'Les $\frac{5}{17}$ et $\frac{6}{18}$ Juillet, dans les combats meurtriers qui ont précédé l'évacuation des ouvrages retranchés élevés par les Turcs, certaines positions ont été occupées successivement et abandonnées par les combattants des deux armées, sans que de part

* Ce document a déjà été publié hier dans nos colonnes, traduit d'après les journaux Allemands; nous en donnons aujourd'hui le texte authentique.—(*La Rédaction.*)

et d'autre on ait eu le temps d'enlever morts et blessés. La lutte terminée, les blessés Turcs abandonnés en grand nombre ont été recueillis, soignés sur le plateau même par les chirurgiens de l'armée adverse; mais les blessés Russes, aucun de ceux qui ont eu le malheur de tomber en un endroit momentanément occupé par les troupes Turques, n'est resté vivant. De vingt à trente malheureux ont été décapités, plusieurs amputés des pieds, des mains, des oreilles, du nez, des parties sexuelles, la poitrine tailladée à coups de yatagan et leurs têtes portées dans le camp Turc, où les ont trouvées les soldats Russes après l'occupation des ouvrages. Nous avons vu de nos yeux ces têtes coupées, ces corps mutilés, quelques-uns témoignant par la contraction des muscles, la torsion des membres, les horribles tortures d'une mutilation pratiquée à vif. Nous avons vu un corps décapité et mutilé encore, étendu sur le brancard d'ambulance où il avait été placé blessé, et non loin de là les cadavres également décapités des deux brancardiers portant au bras gauche le brassard de la Croix-Rouge.

"'Nous nous en tenons strictement à ce que nous avons vu et laissant à ceux qui ont été témoins du combat lui-même le soin de relever la violation des droits de la guerre qu'aurait commise les Turcs, en arborant deux drapeaux parlementaires pour rouvrir presque aussitôt le feu sur les troupes Russes en refus, nous soumettons au jugement du monde civilisé le contraste que présentait le lendemain du combat, à quelques centaines de mètres de distance, d'un côté, plus de cinquante blessés Musulmans soignés selon les préceptes de l'humanité par les médecins de l'armée Russe, de l'autre le monceau de têtes coupées, hideux trophée des barbaries de la garnison régulière Ottomane.

(Signé) "'C. B. BRACKENBURY, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Correspondant Militaire du "Times."*
"'DICK DE LONLAY, *Correspondant Spécial du "Moniteur Universel" et du "Monde Illustré."*
"'H DE LAMOTHE, *Correspondant du "Temps."*
"'I. L. TELLIER, *Correspondant de la "Ilustracion Espanola y Americana."*'"

No. 273.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 351.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 19, 1877, 7 P.M.*

GENERAL KEMBALL telegraphs the following, dated yesterday evening:—

"Russians advanced this morning with their whole force—between forty and fifty battalions, fourteen batteries, and ten regiments of cavalry; threatened our cavalry and east front, and attacked on west towards Wezin-Keui. They were repulsed and were followed half way back to their camp, but retired in good order. Loss not very considerable on our side, but greater on the side of the Russians. Commander-in-chief's telegram to the Porte is perfectly correct without exaggeration."

No. 274.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 352.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 19, 1877, 7·40 P.M.*

LENNOX telegraphs that numbers of Mussulman fugitives are bivouacked in various places in East Bulgaria. At Eski-Djouma alone there are 15,000 families. Civil power can do little. Mehemet Ali Pasha would give every facility in the power of military authorities to assist in the distribution of any relief. Would you make this known in England? The misery and suffering caused by this war are dreadful and daily increasing, and except what Baroness Burdett Coutts has done there is nothing for the relief of the unfortunate Mussulmans who have been driven out of their villages and despoiled of everything by Russians and Bulgarians.

No. 275.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 20, 1877, noon.*

IT is generally believed in Belgrade that the Austrian Government are growing indifferent to Servian action, provided Bosnia is not invaded by Prince Milan.

M. Ristich tells me that no determination has been adopted yet, and this may be true so far as the financial difficulty still exists in full; but Foreign Minister's language not so reassuring as formerly.

Sent to Constantinople and Vienna.

No. 276.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 67: Political.)
My Lord, *Alieh, August 3, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the state of affairs at Tripoli and Lattakia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 276.

Consul-General Eldridge to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Alieh, August 3, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd ultimo, reporting on the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Lattakia, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Excellency's information, an extract from a letter which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Vitale, from which it would appear that there is a danger of a collision between the Mussulmans and Ansariyehs at Sahioun, unless the measures adopted by the authorities prove effective in preventing their coming to an open rupture, which would be most unfortunate for the country.

Ahmed Shukri Effendi, whose removal by Zia Pasha from his post as Kaimakam of Lattakia I reported in my despatch of the 23rd June, has been reinstated, greatly to the satisfaction of the Christians and order-loving Mussulmans of the town of Lattakia, where I hear that perfect tranquillity reigns.

Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche reports from Tripoli that the measures adopted by the Mutessarif have been so far successful, that he has not heard of any fresh acts of brigandage in the neighbourhood of Safita, and that about thirty of the deserters from the Redifs have given themselves up to the authorities.

Some excitement has been created amongst the Mussulmans of Tripoli by the appointment, as Mudir of the Marina, of the son of Nicola Bey Naufhal, a Christian Member of the Ottoman Parliament for Syria, who has recently returned from Constantinople.

This being the first appointment of a Christian to a similar post in the vilayet, it not unnaturally excited the Mussulmans, who, however, do not appear to have proceeded to any extremities in their opposition, and seem now to have accepted the *fait accompli* under the influence of Shakir Bey, the Mutessarif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 276.

Extract of a Letter from Vice-Consul Vitale.

LES deux Cantons de Sahioun (Musulmans) et de Bet-el-Chelf (Ansariyés) font toujours des préparatifs hostiles l'un et l'autre, et il est fort à craindre qu'ils finiront par arriver à se battre. A Sahioun il y a actuellement un nombre considérable des Musulmans des autres cantons de ce même district et des autres cantons du voisinage (Vilayet d'Alep) qui sont venus exprès pour aider leurs coreligionnaires à repousser les Ansaryéhs s'ils venaient à attaquer Sahioun comme ils ne cessent de menacer.

Sur un ordre du nouveau Vali (Omer Fozi Pacha) le Caïmacam s'est rendu Samedi dernier à Sahioun pour travailler à disperser les étrangers qui y sont assemblés, calmer les gens de Sahioun et les pacifier, si faire se peut, avec les Ansariyés de Bet-el-Chelf. Il a à sa disposition là-bas environ 100 soldats des Rédifs et un escadron des Dragons. Aussi, l'on dit aujourd'hui qu'il a reçu un renfort de quelques 150 soldats venus de Hama, voie de Safita et Gébelé.

No. 277.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 75. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Ismet Pasha has telegraphed from Livno the occupation of Cerni-Potok, so long the head-quarters of Despotovich and the insurgents, and gives the following particulars:—On Thursday the 2nd instant Halil Bey, Colonel of the police force, and Hassan Bey, Commander of the troops at Bihach, advancing from the north, defeated a band of insurgents at Unac, and the following day effected a junction with Ismet Pasha in the valley of the Tiskovac. On the 4th the united force, consisting of about four and a half battalions, attacked Cerni-Potok. The insurgents, who are said to have numbered about 3,000, do not appear to have offered much resistance, for in two hours and a half the Turkish troops had driven them across the frontier and occupied their positions. Ismet Pasha estimates their loss at about 100 killed and twice that number wounded, and reports the Turkish loss to be only six killed, ten wounded, and eleven missing. At Cerni-Potok were found 2 old cannon, 1,000 breech-loading rifles, 67 boxes of ammunition, 12 swords, 3 flags, a considerable supply of provisions, sundry gunsmith's tools, some surgical instruments, and a supply of medicines. The Turks also took 18 oxen, and 1,200 sheep and goats.

Despotovich and the insurgents fled across the frontier in the direction of the Austrian village Drenovac.

Ismet Pasha reports that the combat was witnessed by some Austrian troops and a considerable number of the inhabitants of two villages situated near the frontier. He has informed Generals Rodich and Mollinary, and has requested them to have the insurgents disarmed.

His Excellency the Governor-General also informed me confidentially that Ismet Pasha had reported that during the fight he was forced to occupy with his troops the summits of some hills on Austrian territory.

A Turkish force will be left at Cerni-Potok for the present.

This success of the Turks will doubtless be a great blow to the insurrection in Bosnia, especially if the Austrian authorities in Dalmatia disarm the insurgents that have crossed the frontier and relegate Despotovich into the interior of the country. It cannot, however, be expected to put an end to it. There are numerous bands of insurgents still about the country with no means of existence except pillage, which are not likely to voluntarily offer their submission under present circumstances, and of which this province can only gradually be cleared by the greatest perseverance and activity on the part of the troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 278.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 21.)

(No. 76. Political.)

Bosna-Serai, August 10, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the last battalion of troops destined to complete the garrison of the Herzegovina left this for Mostar yesterday. This will bring up the total force there to thirteen battalions, besides a few hundred men of the "Mustahfiz" or auxiliary force. This is far too few with which to accomplish the passage of the Duga, and should Zeki Pasha attempt it, there would probably be a calamitous catastrophe, but as the military command in the Herzegovina has been separated from that in Bosnia the Ferik Vely Pasha commanding here, refuses to send any of his troops to the Herzegovina, although there are at present in Bosnia twenty-seven battalions of regular troops and not less than 6,000 men of the Mustahfiz under arms.

It is highly desirable that the supreme command in Bosnia and the Herzegovina should be vested in one person, and the Governor-General, Mahzar Pasha, informs me that he has made this suggestion to the Porte, and requested that a capable commander be sent as soon as possible.

In the meantime his Excellency has been making an effort to enrol among the upper classes of the town and district of Serajevo an irregular force for service in the Herzegovina, to be commanded by the Mustesehar Constant Pasha. He stated to me that he calculated on collecting about 4,000 men, but at a muster ordered yesterday there were only about 150 horsemen present. The Mussulmans are strongly adverse to this measure, and I think it very doubtful whether a single man ever march.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 279.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 21.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 19 Août, 1877.

UNE dépêche de Suleiman Pacha du 15 relate qu'une colonne d'éclaireurs Ottomans a trouvé dans le village d'Illéhanly des femmes Musulmanes et un grand nombre d'enfants au-dessous de cinq ans, retenus prisonniers par les Bulgares, qui avaient massacré toute la population mâle et un certain nombre de femmes. Ils n'avaient épargné que quelques jeunes femmes et filles Musulmanes qu'ils avaient obligées à prendre des vêtements Chrétiens. Vingt-cinq chariots expédiées du Quartier-Général ont transporté ces femmes et ces enfants à Haïm, lieu où ils sont soignés et nourris. Un autre télégramme de Suleiman Pacha annonce que le même jour des éclaireurs dirigés dans les environs de Kézanlik ont rencontré et attaqué des Bulgares près du village de Maglas. Ceux-ci ont été défaits et se sont enfuis dans les montagnes, en laissant vingt de leurs sur le terrain. Nos éclaireurs, étant alors entrés dans le village, ont trouvé une centaine de femmes Musulmanes et des enfants en bas âge qui ont été amenés au Quartier-Général. D'autres femmes, au nombre de plus de 100, avaient été enfermées par les Bulgares dans un couvent voisin. Ces malheureuses ayant pu donner avis de leur présence dans ce lieu à nos éclaireurs, ceux-ci, après avoir reçu des renforts, ont marché sur ce couvent pour les délivrer.

Un troisième télégramme du Suleiman Pacha, en date du 16, rapporte les faits suivants, qui ont été constatés de visu par l'officier supérieur de la marine Britannique qui avait accompagnée l'armée à Haïu-Boghaz: 120 habitants Musulmans du village d'Illéhanly avaient été massacrés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares. Parmi les morts on remarquait une jeune femme Musulmane d'une grande beauté qui avait été égorgée puis jetée dans l'eau dépouillée de tous ses vêtements. Les cadavres d'une famille entière avaient été précipités dans un puits. L'officier Anglais a pu reconnaître à la richesse des vêtements que les victimes appartenaient à une famille notable. Les Bulgares et les Cosaques ont tenu enfermées durant dix jours les femmes et les filles des habitants Musulmans qu'ils avaient massacrés, et leur ont fait subir les derniers outrages; puis, ils ont introduit de vive force quinze prisonniers dans la maison où les femmes étaient détenues, et les ont tous brûlés vifs. Cet acte horrible a été rapporté par la seule femme qui ait survécu. Les Bulgares, à l'arrivée des troupes Impériales

à Haïn-Boghaz, se sont enfuis dans la montagne, en emmenant avec eux toutes les femmes au-dessous de trente ans et les enfants en bas âge. L'officier Anglais a témoigné des massacres en masse exécutés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares. Les mêmes faits ont été constatés par l'Attaché Militaire de l'Ambassade Britannique et par les correspondants du "Morning Post," du "Times," et du "Daily Telegraph," qui ont fait chacun leur rapport à l'Ambassade Britannique et à leurs journaux respectifs.

Enfin, un télégramme d'Andrinople nous rapporte qu'il a été constaté que plus de la moitié des Israélites de Kézanlik, hommes, femmes, et enfants, ont été massacrés par les Russes et les Bulgares.

No. 280.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 21.*)

Constantinople, le 20 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte a reçu des autorités Ottomanes du district de Tirnova un télégramme qui signale les faits suivants :—

Cent-vingt habitants de Terenbegh Dagh, village du district de Tirnova, dont trois hommes et le reste femmes et enfants, étant tombés au pouvoir de l'ennemi, sont parvenus à s'échapper nuitamment de ses mains. Ils ont été recueillis à Yayla par les troupes Impériales, exténués de faim et de fatigue, sans vêtements et après avoir erré pendant plusieurs jours dans les montagnes, ne vivant que d'herbes et de racines. Ces fugitifs ont été secourus et envoyés à Osman-Bazar et de là à Choumla. D'après leurs dépositions, les Bulgares, ayant rassemblé tous les Musulmans de leur village, les ont affreusement torturés pendant que les Russes pillaient tout ce qui restait encore des biens de la population Musulmane. Cet acte de vandalisme accompli, ils ont emmené les jeunes gens, avec quelques uns de leurs parents, hors du village. On ne connait pas le sort de ces malheureux.

No. 281.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 21.*)

(No. 353.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 20, 1877, 2·15 P.M.*

SERVIAN Agent read this morning to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a telegram from M. Ristich, containing assurances that Russia did not intend to march troops through Servia, that Servia had no intention of attacking Turkey, and that no military preparations were being made on the Turkish frontier, and expressing his surprise somewhat indignantly that the Porte should be constantly asking for explanations in consequence of unfounded rumours about the attitude of Servia. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs was not satisfied with these assurances, and requested to have some definite and distinct statement as to the policy which Servia intended to pursue. Servian Agent hinted that his Government would be irritated by such a request; but as Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs insisted upon it he would submit it to his Government.

Sent to Belgrade.

No. 282.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 21.*)

(No. 354.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 20, 1877, 7·40 P.M.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he is about to appeal, through Musurus Pasha, to England, as one of the protecting Powers, to interfere to prevent Greece from attacking Turkey. His Excellency states that from information received from Athens he is convinced that preparations for attack are being made, and that it may be soon expected.

No. 283.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 21.*)

(No. 355.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 21, 1877.*

THE affair mentioned in my telegram No. 350 of the 19th does not appear to have been of importance. Turkish population of Kyzanlik were released and Russians retreated. Fife having telegraphed in Turkish may have been misunderstood.

No. 284.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 40. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebisond, August 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that Shefket Pasha, of Bulgarian fame, has been appointed in the room of Djemil Pasha, lately recalled at Constantinople, second in command in the army corps of the Tsarook-Soo, and that he arrived at Batoum on the 1st instant on board the Imperial frigate "Selimié," from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 285.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebisond, August 8, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of two despatches which I have addressed on the 6th instant and this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the former reporting the evacuation of Tshamtshira by the Turkish forces, and the latter relating to the emigration of the Caucasians to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 285.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, August 6, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to a bulletin issued on the 4th instant, the Russians who had entrenched themselves in the vicinity of Tshamtshira attacked on the 29th ultimo the Turks in that locality.

After a few shots had been exchanged the iron-clad "Mahmoodie" made her appearance and took an effective part in the action. She succeeded in destroying the works of the Russians near the sea-shore, who were then routed with a loss of about 3,000 killed. The Turks after having pursued them for some time retreated in their former positions, with few casualties.

It would seem, however, that, if the success of the latter was so complete as they claim it to have been on that occasion, shortly after the Russians came on all sides in such numbers that their position became very critical, so much so that they were compelled to evacuate Tshamtshira on the 2nd instant from fear of being thrown into the sea.

Hobart Pasha succeeded in embarking, without firing a shot, the troops at Tshamtshira, numbering about 6,000 men, as well as all the munitions and the provisions, which were conveyed to Sukoum. He had left Batoum bound for this expedition on the 1st with the "Assari Tevfik" and "Feth Bulend," iron-clads, the transports "Medjidie" and "Assyr," the wooden frigate "Muhpuri Surur," and two avisos with a number of sailing craft in tow.

He was joined shortly after by the wooden frigates "Selimié" and "Hudavendi-

kiar" and the transports "Shaar," "Nassret," and "Taif," which arrived that day at Batoum, the last mentioned vessel with ninety horses on board for that place. Two other vessels were also expected from Constantinople.

I hear that the population of Tshamtshira, which wanted to follow the Turks, was prevented to do so by the Russians.

The above-mentioned operation is the only one performed by the Turkish navy on these coasts since the attack on Fort St. Nicholas (Shefkatit) about a month ago by the wooden fregate "Muhpuri Surur," where the Turkish shells set fire to the bazaar of that locality, which was completely burnt down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 285.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Trebizond, August 8, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE had the honour to forward yesterday the following telegram to your Excellency:—

"Tshamtshira having been evacuated by the Turkish forces on the 2nd, Circassians emigrate from all parts of the coast. Sixteen vessels are embarking thousands of them for this and other places. Their landing here would be greatly detrimental to the public safety of Trebizond, where there are no adequate military or police forces."

The province of Trebizond offers now no more convenient spots of settlement for Caucasian refugees than it did sixteen years ago when thousands of them had been disembarked here, and had to be reshipped for other parts of the Empire.

If emigrants were, therefore, landed here again, their residence could, as before, be only temporary.

Should there be strong motives, as there is reason to believe, for their being sent here in great numbers, they ought not to be allowed to remain long enough to create, as they did on their first exodus from the Caucasus, misery and epidemic diseases in this place.

The last consideration has more weight than usual in the present moment, owing to the fact that there are military hospitals at Trebizond containing now about 1,000 sick and wounded, whose number may be greatly increased according to circumstances.

Moreover, as in the present straitened circumstances of the Turkish Treasury, it can hardly be expected that rations will be regularly issued to these refugees, and, as owing to the uncertainty of their residence here it will be difficult for them to procure employment, they will, so to say, find themselves compelled to resort to all kinds of devices to obtain their daily means of subsistence.

The result may be serious disorders, to repress which there are no adequate military or police forces.

A Turkish transport, the "Assyr," arrived in the night, has just landed the first batch of Caucasians, numbering about 800 souls.

The immigration of the Caucasians is said to take place in consequence of Hobart Pasha having made known to them the intention of the Turkish forces to evacuate shortly Sookoom Kaleh, and having offered to give a passage to all those who wanted to settle in Turkey.

About 300 sick and wounded from the hospital of Sookoom Kaleh have arrived here two days ago. The heat is very great in that locality. However, all are in good health afloat, but the same cannot be said for the camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 286.

Consul Kirby Green to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 96. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, August* 11, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 88 and 89 of the 15th and 16th ultimo, written at Cettigné, I now have the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter addressed to me by Prince Nicholas' Secretary, M. Duby.

I am not indisposed to believe that the Prince, having been made to feel anxious by the unexpected check sustained by the Russians in Bulgaria, has directed M. Duby to recall to my mind his claim to entire freedom and independence of action, even in the matter of peace or war, and his desire, as soon as his Principality is extended so as to become self-supporting, to separate Montenegro from the struggles and turmoils of the past.

His Highness and the whole of his people feel acutely the tutelage exercised over them both by Russia and Austria, but more so each time the events of the moment seem to carry away from their grasp the positions which would enable them to emancipate themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 286.

M. Duby to Consul Kirby Green.

(Extract.) *Cettigné, August* 6, 1877.

HIS Highness the Prince arrived on Saturday night for a day or two on a visit to his family, and on some administrative matters, as the siege of Niehsich does not make his presence there imperative just at present.

He spoke to me about you and your visit, saying how glad he is to have made your personal acquaintance. He says that, though people have been talking right and left about your visit, the purpose of which was too obvious to keep altogether secret, he has taken good care to keep to himself the more confidential parts of your conversation. He trusts that you have understood him thoroughly, and that you will have confirmed the impression conveyed to your Government by Mr. Monson about His Highness' aims and policy.

I take advantage of the post to tell you this while yet fresh on my mind.

No. 287.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 924.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 11, 1877.

GREAT irritation is felt by the Porte at the conduct of Prince Milan and the Servian Government in openly making preparations, although with the usual farce of a denial, to attack and invade Turkey. The Turkish Government suspects that some engagement exists between Servia and Roumania, entered into at the instigation, or with the sanction of Russia, to cross the Turkish frontier and to threaten the rear of Osman Pasha's position at Plevna. From Mr. White's recent reports, there is reason to believe that this suspicion is not unfounded.

The Porte complains bitterly, and it certainly cannot be said without reason, that there was a time when, in consequence of the successes of the Turkish arms, the Principality could have been reduced to a condition which would have prevented it from occasioning further embarrassment to Turkey; but remembering the strong pressure previously put upon the Turkish Government by some of the Great Powers to make peace at any price, the Porte considered it useless to insist upon solid guarantees, such as the occupation of the Servian fortresses, the possession of which, it is contended, would have placed Turkey in a position to impose terms upon Servia, which would have rendered her harmless for the future. Instead, Turkey granted her generous conditions, and derived no benefit from the great sacrifices she had made. The only result has been that Servia now takes advantage of the generosity of the Turkish

Government and of the interference on her behalf of the Powers, to threaten Turkey with an invasion.

It is particularly against England that this feeling of disappointment is turned. The Minister for Foreign Affairs begged Mr. Sandison this morning to remind me that the Sultan himself had wisely impressed upon his Ministers that, in order to secure the future tranquillity of the Empire, it was of the utmost importance that certain strategical positions on Servian territory should be occupied by his troops, but that the Porte, always desirous of meeting the wishes of the European Governments, had thought it right not to take this step. His Excellency appeared to wish it to be understood that these Governments, and especially England, being more or less responsible for the peace concluded with Servia, have contracted a moral obligation to call the Principality to a sense of its duty.

It cannot be denied that it was mainly owing to the advice and pressure, indeed, almost more than pressure, of Her Majesty's Government, that the Porte consented to stop short in its victorious advance upon Belgrade, and to make peace with Servia on conditions such as have rarely been granted to a conquered country. I find that last year Mr. Sandison was directed by Sir Henry Elliot to inform the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs "that if the Government of the Sultan accepted the mediation for a peace with Servia, no effort would be wanting on the part of Her Majesty's Government to obtain for the Porte a peace by which its interests and dignity would be secured."

The advice of Her Majesty's Government was constantly given in this sense, and no doubt contributed greatly to induce the Turkish Government to concede to Servia the very favourable terms which brought the war to an end.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government may think fit to use their influence at Belgrade or elsewhere to prevent Servia from committing a wanton aggression on Turkey after the generous manner in which she was treated, and in violation of her solemn Treaty engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 288.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 926.)
Therapia, August 12, 1877.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Colonel Lennox giving an account of a dreadful massacre of the Christian inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Günetly Mahalesi, near Yeni-Zaghra, by Circassians. The reason why these lawless marauders should have committed the slaughter of men, women, and children is not very clear from Colonel Lennox's report, unless it is to be attributed to revenge for having failed in their first attempt to plunder the village. The case has appeared to me of so grave a nature that I have sent the substance of Colonel Lennox's despatch to the Sultan through Said Pasha, to whom I have written a letter, of which I inclose a copy. I earnestly hope that His Majesty will give orders that measures be taken without delay for the discovery and condign punishment of the authors of this shocking destruction of human life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 288.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Slivno, July 29, 1877.

Sir,

ON the 27th instant I returned from Karabounar to Yeni-Zagra accompanied by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., on a railway hand-worked trolley.

His Excellency Suleiman Pasha, commanding the troops in Roumelia, was proceeding the same day from Karabounar to Kane-Mahalesi to confer with his Excellency Raouf Pasha, and travelled on a trolley as far as Dyadikioj, from whence he proceeded with some battalions and cavalry he had brought. I understand from Suleiman Pasha that in that neighbourhood Mussulmans were reported to be blockaded

in their villages, and that he had sent troops out to release them; also that it was said some mutilated bodies of Turkish persons had been found, and that three women had been discovered with the portions of their fingers that were stained with henna cut off; his Excellency said that these women would be brought into Karabounar, and I suggested that Captain Fife should be requested to see them. His Excellency also informed me that the Bulgars had burnt houses in the villages of Karabounar and Kavak-Mahale, taken arms away from Mussulmans and killed some men. I have been unable to ascertain whether the above reports made to his Excellency Suleiman Pasha were accurate or not.

Soon after leaving the Basc-Mahalesi railway station we saw the mutilated body of a Turk lying in a field near the line. We were at this time accompanied by M. Gottwalt Walder, the station-master at Yeni-Zagra, who had come in his trolley to the broken bridge (between 29 and 30 kilom. from Tirnova) beyond which the trolley from Karabounar could not go.

M. Walder had heard that there had been some Bulgars killed at the village of Günetly Mahalesi, so we stopped opposite the village and walked out to it; it is a large village of say 200 houses, about half a mile to the east of the railway; we reached the village about 12·30 P.M.; on the outskirts we saw two wounded women, one of whom was badly wounded by a sword cut in the head, and is said to have died before evening. On proceeding through the village we saw four men and one woman lying wounded in a verandah; we were informed that the bulk of the people were near the church, and we accordingly went there; near the church there were a good many arabas, or country carts, which fugitives from other villages had brought to Günetly-Mahalesi, and there we saw a wounded woman and an infant killed both by bullets.

We next entered the churchyard and at once saw that a horrible massacre had taken place; dead, dying, and wounded were lying in all directions, I counted 168 dead bodies, most of them were in the churchyard, but three were in the church itself, which was a scene of havoc; in the churchyard there were four rooms (for school and priest's house probably), and in one of these rooms, which had divans round the walls, bodies of men, women, and children were heaped up as they had fallen; it would have been impossible to count the bodies without having them brought out, and the stench was so great that one could not remain in the room many seconds, but I satisfied myself that there were at least twenty-one bodies in that room.

At first I commenced making notes of the number of wounded, but time pressed and I ceased after counting ten, of whom five were women and one a child. I can affirm that many of the women, children, and infants were killed and wounded by sword cuts, and that they were therefore purposely killed, which need not have been the case had their wounds been only by bullets, as they might have been fired at the men only. I must state that we did not see any muskets, pistols, or swords among the dead bodies, or any where about the village, the only weapons they appeared to have were sticks.

When we had left Yeni-Zagra on the previous day there were two English doctors there, viz., Drs. Leslie and Meyrick, of the British National Society, and we left the village of Günetly-Mahalesi about 2 P.M., intending to return at once with a short train with the medical men, which the station-master (M. Walder) kindly consented to run down by the only locomotive he had at Yeni-Zagra.

However, on nearing Yeni-Zagra on the trolley we found that an engagement was going on and that artillery was in action, and we were, therefore, obliged to delay for some time for fear of running into the hands of the enemy. When we did reach Yeni-Zagra we found that the English doctors had marched with the force that had left the previous evening for Rane-Mahalesi, but which had not reached that place when we passed through it that morning.

I at once telegraphed in Turkish to the Embassy to the following effect: "More than 160 Bulgars—men, women, and children, have been massacred at Günetly-Mahalesi, between the railway stations of Rane-Mahalesi and Yeni-Zagra, at two hours from Rane-Mahalesi (about five miles in reality)." I added that "I suggested you should send a Consul to inquire into it."

I also telegraphed to the British Consul at Adrianople giving him the same particulars as regards the massacre and adding: "I have telegraphed to the Ambassador to propose that an English Consul should go to Günetly-Mahalesi."

I was about, also, to telegraph to his Excellency Raouf Pasha at Rane-Mahalesi to inform him of the fact, but I was told that he had already left that place on his way back to Yeni-Zagra.

As we had informed the wounded that we would return with medical assistance, I thought it right to proceed there again, although no doctors were to be had, particularly as I had begged the villagers to dig graves and collect the bodies, though not to cover them in, as I was anxious, if possible, to ascertain without fear of future contradiction the exact number of persons massacred. The station-master kindly sent the engine and one carriage off with us about 5·30 P.M. I was accompanied by Lieutenant Chermside, Royal Engineers, and my Dragoman.

On getting to Günetly-Mahalesi I found that the bodies had not been collected, and, moreover, that some of them had been buried and covered in.

The priest had been killed at the gate of his churchyard, and there was no man of authority in the village, and all seemed paralysed by their misfortunes.

However, I proceeded to each grave and took down the numbers stated to have been buried in each, which amounted to sixty-five; this brought the number massacred (counting the 127 bodies which were there awaiting burial) up to 192 persons; the villagers further assured me that there were many bodies in the outskirts of the village; there can be no doubt, I fear also, that many of the wounded will die.

I have not been able to sift well the history of the massacre, and it will, I hope, be inquired into by a British Consul who will, doubtless, be able to ascertain all the circumstances; but I will mention the case as I understand it. At Günetly-Mahalesi fugitives from other villages had arrived with their cattle; the Circassian irregular cavalry of Raouf Pasha's force at Yeni-Zagra had visited the village for the purpose plundering it, a day or two before, and the inhabitants and the fugitives there resisted them and driven them off (by what means I cannot say).

The survivors state that the Circassians came upon them about sunset on the 26th instant and commenced and continued the massacre all that night; when they left they set fire to two or three houses, and carried off some young women, about ten it is said, but it is difficult to ascertain the numbers owing to so many inhabitants having been killed, and also, as there were fugitives from other villages in the place. These women, it was expected, might come in after dark, if the Circassians had not killed them after dishonouring them in the fields.

Before I left the village (about 8 P.M. on the 27th) Raouf Pasha's force had arrived near it on its way back to Yeni-Zagra from Rane-Mahalessi, Circassians had again come into the place and they had fired it in several places. His Excellency sent a squadron of regular cavalry immediately I sent up to him, and they were clearing the place of Circassians. I went to see Raouf Pasha in his bivouac before I left, and he said he would send a battalion down as a guard to the village; he had not heard of the massacre until I informed him of it. For fear this may be considered improbable, I would mention that he had sent Drs. Leslie and Meyrick to this very village to find a place for some of his force who had been wounded on the previous afternoon in an affair with some armed Bulgars; he would certainly not have sent the doctors there had he known of the massacre and been anxious to hide it. These two English doctors were about to attend to the wounded Bulgarians at Günetly Mahalessi. I have omitted to mention that this village was entirely Bulgarian.

I expressed strongly to his Excellency Raouf Pasha the absolute necessity of taking some steps to repress the excesses of the Circassians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

P.S.—Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, who is now here, proceeds to-morrow to visit, if possible, Kuderbe and Günetly Mahalessi.

W. L.

Inclosure 2 in No. 286.

Mr. Layard to Said Pasha.

(Private.) *Therapia, August* 11, 1877.

Excellency,

YOU are well aware that I have never hesitated to bring to the notice of Her Majesty's Government the statements made to me by the Porte as to the cruelties and massacres alleged to have been committed by Russian troops and by Bulgarian Christians under their protection and with their connivance upon the defenceless Mussulman population, including women and children. I trust that, in England, indignation

is felt against the authors of such acts, whoever they may be, and commiseration for those who have suffered from them, without distinction of creed or race. Of my own feelings the Sultan cannot, I trust, entertain a doubt. I have the deepest sympathy for those of his subjects who have been the victims of the outrages and excesses to which my attention has been called by His Majesty's orders, and of which I have at once informed Her Majesty's Government.

Such being the case, I am convinced that His Majesty, in whose sentiments of justice and humanity I have the most entire confidence, will permit me to bring to his notice the outrages which have been committed by the Circassians and other Turkish irregular troops upon the Christian population. I feel persuaded that His Majesty has only to be informed of them to order that those who have been guilty of them should be punished with the utmost severity.

I inclose the account of a horrible massacre committed by the Circassians upon the Christian inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Günetly Mahalesi. As your Excellency will observe, there cannot be a doubt as to its truth, as Colonel Lennox, the Military Attaché to this Embassy, saw himself the bodies of about 192 persons, men, women, and children, who had been horribly murdered, besides a great many wounded. The Circassians were the authors of this shocking slaughter. They committed similar excesses in other Christian villages, but not, I hope, to the same extent. I have the names of several of the places.

I leave your Excellency to judge of the impression which such an occurrence as that of Günetly Mahalesi, to which a British officer bears witness, will have upon public opinion in England, and what infinite harm it is calculated to do the cause of Turkey. I am, therefore, I believe, acting the part of a true friend in bringing it to the notice of the Sultan, and in entreating His Majesty to give directions that measures should be immediately taken to discover and punish its authors.

In justice to Suleiman Pasha, I must state that, from the reports which I have received, it appears that his Excellency is doing all in his power to prevent the troops under his command from plundering and maltreating the Christians, and that he has shot several men who have been found guilty of excesses and outrages.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 289.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 928.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from Vice-Consul Blakeney reporting the measures taken for the preservation of order at Prevesa, and the proceedings of the revolutionary Committee at Janina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 289.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, August* 4, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency that my Italian colleague, Signor Corti, called on me on Saturday last, and read over to me the draft of a letter which he had written the day before to the Mutessarif, demanding satisfaction for an insult offered to him by a detachment of Redifs. It appears that as Signor Corti was proceeding, two or three days previously, to a garden, the property of some Italian subjects, situated about a quarter of an hour distant from town, he happened to discharge his fowling piece, when all of a sudden he found himself surrounded by about thirty Redifs, who wished to bring him before the Bimbashi of their battalion. Signor Corti, who was accompanied by his Cavass, naturally refused to obey, and a Turkish officer coming up Signor Corti managed to make him understand that he was the Italian Consul, but even this explanation was not considered sufficient for his release; he was therefore kept prisoner, as it were, for nearly half-an-hour, that is until instructions had been asked from and given by the Bimbashi.

The nature of the satisfaction demanded, and which within forty-eight hours' time was given to Signor Corti, was (1st) that the Bimbashi should call on him and apologise, and (2nd) that when Signor Corti returned the Bimbashi's visit at the konak a company of soldiers, including those who had insulted him, to be drawn up outside the konak and present arms. Signor Corti had also telegraphed to the Italian Consul at Janina to send one or two of the Italian ironclads which are stationed at Avlona, but which, however, were not sent, as Signor Corti had received full satisfaction.

Over zeal, or rather stupidity, on the part of some of the authorities gave rise to the insult offered to Signor Corti, for it appears that the troops had been ordered to prevent people from going out shooting, a measure which the authorities failed to communicate to the Consular body, so that had we all gone out shooting we should all of us have run the risk of being made prisoners. Since the above incident, however, shooting is no longer prohibited.

As the above was one of the measures which the local authorities considered as absolutely necessary for the preservation of order, I think it is not out of place here to report the receipt of a circular note addressed to the foreign Consuls by the Mutessarif, acquainting us that a notice had been placarded in various quarters of the town, prohibiting people from discussing politics in the streets, and begging us to "keep secret" any news that might reach us respecting the war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 289.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Prevesa, August 4, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that a certain Epaminondas Mavromati arrived at Janina from Greece on the 26th ultimo, with a message for the Committee at that place to form a Commission from among the members of the Committee to be intrusted with the Government of the Revolution as soon as the latter breaks out. He also communicated to the Committee that the chief military commands will be given to natives of Epirus educated and residing in Greece, and who will leave that country when the proper time arrives.

As regards the enlistment and sending off of volunteers to Greece this appears to be carried on at present with greater activity than ever.

A thing worthy of remark at Janina is that the Greek Consul there, M. Londos, who, up to a short time since, scarcely seemed to notice the proceedings of the above-mentioned Committee, appears now to take a very prominent part and figures both as President and leader.

The above account is the substance of M. Kypriotis' despatch, marked Confidential, of the 30th ultimo.

The pay offered to young men who wish to enter the Greek army is put down between 40 fr. and 50 fr. per month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

No. 290.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 930.)
Therapia, August 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed that amongst the fugitives who have arrived at Adrianople and elsewhere are a number of Jewish families, who have suffered almost as much as the Mahomedans from most cruel treatment at the hands of the Bulgarians and Russians. They are chiefly from Eski-Zaghra and Kyzanlik. At the latter place many Jews are stated to have been massacred. The Turkish authorities, Mr. Blunt informs me, have done their best to protect them, and many of the fugitives have assured him that the Turkish regular troops treated them kindly, and gave them their blankets and cloaks for their children. One Jewish girl of 18 years of age has died at Adrianople from the outrages which she received from twenty Cossacks.

These poor Jews, persecuted by the Christians, and helped and protected by the Mahomedans alone, are in the greatest misery, having been stripped of everything and their houses and property having been destroyed. An appeal to the community in England would probably do something for their relief, and I venture to ask your Lordship to bring their sufferings to the knowledge of some of the leading members of it. Mr. Blunt, Mr. Dupuis, and some other gentlemen who have formed themselves into a Committee at Adrianople for the relief, without distinction of race or creed, of the many thousand fugitives that have taken refuge in that city, would, I feel sure, willingly see to the distribution amongst the Jews of any sums that may be sent for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 291.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 931.)
Therapia, August 15, 1877.

My Lord,

IT is with no satisfaction that I transmit to your Lordship fresh accounts of "atrocities" committed, it is alleged, by Russians, Bulgarians, Circassians, and Bashi-Bazouks upon the defenceless populations, Mussulman and Christian, of Bulgaria and Roumelia. I cannot exercise my judgment as to withholding them. Sir Henry Elliot was denounced, in no measured terms, last year for having, it was asserted, kept back reports that reached him of outrages and excesses, which subsequently proved to be untrue or grossly exaggerated. I therefore send everything, leaving it to others to decide what is likely to be true, and what the reverse.

The Porte is now condemned by those who last year employed the exaggerated, and in many cases unfounded, reports against it, and thereby have been partly the cause of the terrible calamities now befalling Turkey, for making use of the same means to influence public opinion. It feels and resents what it considers a great injustice. The Mohammedans believe that the way in which outrages and massacres committed by the Russians and Bulgarians are explained away, attenuated or justified by certain parties in England, proves that this war is not waged, as it is pretended, in the cause of humanity, but in the spirit of religious hatred and persecution. It is astonishing how deep this conviction has penetrated even among the lower orders of the Mussulman population. It accounts for a great deal of the exasperation at present felt against Christians and Europeans.

I have no doubt that many of the statements as to massacres and outrages attributed to Russians, Bulgarians, and Turks, are very much exaggerated. The difficulty of getting at the truth is very great. Even those who declare themselves to be eye-witnesses of what they relate, differ materially as to the facts. Take, for instance, letters (of the 17th and 18th July) published in the "Times" of the 2nd instant, and in the "Daily Telegraph" of the 1st instant, from their respective correspondents, as to what occurred at Yeni-Zara, or Zaghra. The "Times'" correspondent describes the dead bodies of violated and murdered Bulgarian women that he had himself seen. There can be no doubt as to the general truth of what he states, allowance being made for the embroidery which is required for a newspaper letter. On the other hand, the "Daily Telegraph" *special*, who was in the place the day before his colleague, declares that he could find no trace whatever of any murders of Christians, and characterizes the reported outrages there as "a base lie, invented by Russian sympathizers, of whom the German station-master of the place is undoubtedly one." But he describes "atrocities" committed upon Mussulmans.

The "Times'" correspondent has himself stated that he offered money for every dead body of a Mussulman that could be produced to him. His rival of the "Daily Telegraph" appears to have outbid him for Christian bodies. Those who know how little human life is valued in this country are shocked at a proceeding which might tend to encourage murder, and the Turkish authorities have complained very strongly of it. It must not be supposed for one moment that I believe that either of the gentlemen to whom I have referred could have been aware that what they did could have this tendency. But at the present time the greatest discretion and prudence is required in dealing with the "atrocity" question, and there can scarcely be a more dangerous or mischievous man than the professed "atrocity hunter."

I have endeavoured to obtain, through Her Majesty's Consuls and the Military Attachés to the Embassy, the best and most trustworthy evidence on a subject which so deeply interests the British public. Mr. Blunt, Mr. Reade, Mr. Calvert, Mr. Dupuis, and others have done their best by visiting the places in which atrocities are said to have occurred, by personally examining the wounded, and by taking the evidence of those who escaped, to ascertain the truth. Their reports have been forwarded to your Lordship, and they prove beyond a doubt that massacres of the Mussulman population have taken place on a large scale, and that in many places they were committed by Russian cavalry, or by Bulgarians with the connivance or under the protection of Russian troops.

The reports from the Military Attachés confirm those of the Consular Agents. Captain Fife saw himself proofs of the horrible deaths inflicted by Russians or Bulgarians upon Mussulman women and children. On the other hand, Colonel Lennox describes, from personal investigation, the shocking massacre of Christian men, women, and children by Circassians in the village of Gunetly Mahallessi, and states that in other places these lawless plunderers have committed great excesses.

The charges against Russians, Bulgarians, and Mussulmans are further borne out by such eye-witnesses of them as the two American missionaries who escaped from Eski-Zaghra, as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 919 of the 10th instant, and by other independent and trustworthy authorities. Mr. Consul Blunt and the British Vice-Consuls at Adrianople and Philippopoli state that, amongst the wounded women and children who have been brought to those places there are Christians, the victims of the savage deeds of the Circassians.

There cannot be a doubt that to the Bulgarians must be attributed some of the most cruel and horrible outrages that have been committed. Upon them consequently has fallen a terrible revenge. Whether or not Russian troops actually took part in the massacres of the Mohammedans or encouraged them or connived at them, the heaviest responsibility falls upon Russia for them. Last year it was through the intrigues and instigation of Panslavist and Russian agents that the Bulgarians committed those cruel outrages upon Mussulmans that led to the acts of retaliation, which caused so general a feeling of indignation in England against Turkey. This year Russia, when invading Bulgaria and Roumelia, has availed herself of the revolutionary element, and has acted upon principles which she has herself hitherto been the first to condemn. Some believe that the countenance and encouragement she has now given to the revolutionary element will prove in the end very dangerous to herself. Before and after crossing the Danube she called upon the Christian populations of Turkey in Europe to rise against their Sovereign, she supplied them with arms partly taken from the Mahommedans, and called upon them to revenge themselves for the wrongs of centuries. Before entering Turkey she took into her service the Bulgarian regiments or bands of "avengers" which had been organized in Roumania, and which had sworn to exterminate every Mussulman, woman and child. In Bulgaria and Roumelia she has launched them, under the protection of her Cossacks, upon the defenceless Mohammedan population. What could be expected from such a course but boundless carnage and devastation? Whether the Russian authorities took any direct part in them or not, Russia is undoubtedly morally responsible for them.

But the matter becomes even worse when it is remembered that the Russians crossed the Balkans, and provoked the Bulgarians to rise and massacre the Mohammedans, and then retired and left them to their fate. What that fate has been, whether we have full proofs of it or not, it is easy to conjecture. That horrible acts of revenge and retaliation have been committed there cannot be a question. In no country of the world, amongst no other races, could it have been otherwise. The annals of history need not be searched far to show this; but it is but right to put on record, in justice to the Sultan and the Turkish authorities, that they have done their utmost to repress this spirit of revenge, and with success. Hitherto, neither the Turkish regular soldiers nor the true Turkish population have been guilty, except in rare instances, of outrages upon Christians. On the contrary, it is generally admitted that they have protected and shown kindness to them, and have saved the lives of a vast number of women and children. As yet there appears to have been no massacre of Christians which can be attributed to animosities of race or religion. The evil deeds that have been committed are attributed by all trustworthy authorities to the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks. As these lawless irregulars are in the service of the Turkish Government, it will, of course, be held responsible for their acts; but it must not be forgotten, at the same time, that Turkey has been forced into this struggle for

existence, and that she has been compelled to have recourse to every available means to defend all that is dear to men—honour, country, religion, and life.

In addition to the sacrifice of innocent human life caused by this unrighteous war, the devastation of some of the fairest provinces of Turkey in Europe render it still more cruel. In whatever direction the Russians have penetrated the Mussulman population have been driven out, and their towns and villages burnt or destroyed. Where the Russians have retired the Bulgarian villages have met with the same fate. The rich districts of Northern Roumelia have been laid absolutely waste. The abundant crops of this year, the cattle, the innumerable rose gardens, that formed the wealth of that part of Turkey, have been destroyed. The surviving inhabitants, Mussulman and Christian, with the exception of the armed Bulgarians who have followed the Russian army to continue their work of plunder and extermination, have taken refuge in Adrianople, Philippopolis, and in other large towns. The misery of these poor creatures, amongst whom are many wounded women and children, who have lost everything, is appalling.

No such war of massacre and desolation has been carried on for centuries. It is waged on the hateful principles of religious persecution in the cause of Christianity. It will leave behind it animosities which can never be removed, and a spirit of revenge which nothing will quench. Flourishing provinces have been reduced to a desert, and populations of different races and creeds, which have hitherto lived in peace with each other, have been taught the lesson of mutual extermination. All the accumulated evils and vices of centuries of Turkish misrule have not produced such results as these. It remained for a civilized and Christian Government to bring these dreadful disasters, of which it is to be feared we are yet far from seeing the end, upon this unhappy land. It may be stated with some confidence that no war of modern times has produced so much misery and desolation as that now waged by Russia. I will venture to add that no people have borne with more resignation the calamities and sacrifices that such a war has brought upon them than the Turkish population. This fact is admitted by those who can be the least suspected of any sympathy for the Turkish cause. It can be verified any day by the sight of the thousands upon thousands of men of all ages who have been brought from their distant homes to fight for their Sultan, their religion, and their country, under conditions of want and privation to which few other soldiers in the world could submit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 201.

Report by Vice-Consul Brophy on Circassian Outrages.

Constantinople, le 22 Juillet, 1877.

LE 20 courant les Circassiens venant ici de Choumla ont passé par Gradetch, village Bulgare de 500 maisons, où ils ont pris par force 5,000 piastres d'un des notables; ils ont ensuite pillé les maisons et les boutiques, et après avoir tué une femme et blessé une autre, ils se sont éloignés en emportant quinze mulets. Le lendemain ils ont pillé les villages de Bachkui, 500 maisons, et celui de Neikovo, 50 maisons.

Ensuite ils ont brisé les portes de l'église, emporté toute l'argenterie, mis en morceau les images, blessé un homme, et parti en menant 52 chevaux et masse d'autre butin. En passant par le village de Kavakli, à une heure d'ici, ils ont tiré environs 300 coups de fusil pour mettre en fuite les habitants, puis ils ont pillé le village. Rustem Aga, de Karnabat, vient de m'informer que des Circassiens ont attaqué ses moissoneurs Bulgares, leur ont pris 34 chevaux, et tué deux femmes et deux hommes dont il a lui-même vu les cadavres. Tous ces outrages arrivent dans un pays paisible et loin de l'ennemi. Les Musulmans et les Chrétiens de Slivno craignent que leur ville n'essuie le même sort, plus de 2,000 Circassiens étant actuellement ici.

Inclosure 2 in No. 291.

Report by Vice-Consul Brophy on Proceedings of Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks.

Constantinople, le 22 Juillet, 1877.

MILLE cinq cent Circassiens, en venant de Choumla, ont enlevé presque tous les chevaux et les bestiaux des villages Bulgares du Balkan. Outre ça ils ont attaqué les bergers Arnaoutes du Balkan et leur ont emportés tous les chevaux et tous leurs effets. Hier soir en entrant dans la ville, chaque Circassien menait un ou deux chevaux chargés des effets qu'il avait pillés.

Quelques-uns d'entre ces Circassiens ont passé même devant le konak.

Une grande partie des gerbes moissonnés et groupés dans les champs autour de Slimia ont été enlevés.

Les voitures et les chevaux destinés à transporter le matériel nécessaire aux troupes ne peuvent pas être fournis par les villageois à cause des vols et des assassinats.

Les villageois de l'entour viennent chaque jour exposer au Gouvernement l'état déplorable des choses, en demandant des gendarmes pour être gardés.

La ville de Yeni-Zaghra, comme aussi des villages, tant Bulgares que Musulmans, ont été brûlés et pillés.

Yamboli a été pillé par des fuyards, des Bachi-Bazouks, et des Circassiens.

Le Gouvernement fait tout son possible pour arranger les choses, mais se trouvant faible, l'affaire marche de mal en pire. Les suites qui suivront cet état de choses seront à craindre.

Je vous transmettrai les détails des faits ci-dessus par lettre.

Inclosure 3 in No. 291.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, July 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE my last telegram the Circassians have plundered the following villages in the neighbourhood of Slimnia:—

Bourgoudji, Dragodan, Tirkobol, Toutloudja, Tchaïrli, Aïdji Mahalé, Djimalé, Boyali, Guerdimé, Kupekli, Artaklar, Karassyrli, Dermondéré, Kermenli, Natbantlar.

The churches of the three last-mentioned villages have been also plundered. In some of the villages mentioned some men have been killed.

The authorities of Slimnia will fully confirm this information, and that mentioned in my preceding telegrams.

Inclosure 4 in No. 291.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, July 27, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

THE Mutessarif of Slimnia having on the 24th, received official information that 4,000 Bulgarians from different parts were assembled in arms at Boyadjik near Jamboli, which information was also telegraphed to the General commanding the Turkish troops at Yeni-Zaghra, and to the Governor-General of Adrianople, requested me to proceed to Boyadjik in company with the Archbishop and Osman Aga, a Mussulman member of the Medjliss. On arrival there we found that the inhabitants—there were no strangers—with their cattle, were all in one or other of the three Turkish farms in the village, hiding from the Circassian plunderers. The Turks remaining at Boyadjik, and who have been the principal means of protecting their Christian neighbours' lives and property, are guarantees that there are no strangers assembled there, and that the villagers are perfectly loyal to the Turkish Government.

We telegraphed these facts to the Mutessarif here, who transmitted our message to the Vali, and the Pasha commanding at Yeni-Zaghra.

The only arms the Bulgarians possess are shepherds' crooks.

On our way we passed through the village of Kermenli, where, on the 25th, seven Circassians killed eleven Bulgarian shepherds.

Circassians have carried off thousands of horses and cattle, and tens of thousands of sheep, chiefly, but not entirely, from Bulgarians.

The Turkish army in this district is thus not only deprived of transport, but as the peasants have no cattle to carry or thresh their grain, it is more than probable that there will be a famine in these parts, and up to the present time no efficient means have been taken to prevent further excesses. The authorities here will confirm this telegram.

Inclosure 5 in No. 291.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August 7*, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency the following papers:—

1. Translation of a telegram from the Mutessarif of Philippopolis to the Vali of Adrianople dated the 1st instant, reporting the success of a military expedition against the Bulgarian insurgents in the districts of Kiupri and Carlowa.

2 and 3. A despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, with its inclosure, dated the 2nd instant, reporting in the same sense, on the authority of the Sultan's Aide-de-camp, Eshref Bey.

4. A despatch from the same gentleman dated 3rd instant contradicting Eshref Bey's report of the above events.

5. A despatch from the same dated the 3rd instant, reporting on the authority of the Kaïmakam of Tchirpan, the complete destruction of Eski-Zaghra after its recapture by Suleiman Pasha's troops.

6. A despatch from the same dated the 3rd instant, reporting the deplorable state of the country between Kezanlik and Hasskioi through mutual acts of retaliation between the Mussulmans and Bulgarians.

Your Excellency will observe that Mr. Calvert calls attention to the conduct of two Turkish functionaries: first, the Mutevelli (hereditary trustee of pious foundations) of Carlowa, accused of favouring the Russian invaders (Inclosure 2); secondly, Said Agha, the Kaïmakam of Tchirpan, for the fanatical and arbitrary character of his administration.

The Vali of Adrianople, to whom I have represented the conduct of Said Agha, has informed me that he is considering whom he shall appoint to replace him at Tchirpan.

In the meanwhile I would respectfully suggest to your Excellency the advisability of the matter being brought to the notice of the Porte, as also the case of the Mutevelli of Carlowa, who, from all I hear, has done nothing to justify the harsh treatment to which he is subjected by the Ottoman authorities of Philippopolis.

The Vali of Adrianople has promised me that he would telegraph to the Governor of Philippopolis to report to him fully the grounds upon which the Mutevelli is held in prison.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 291.

The Mutesarrif of Philippopolis to the Vali of Adrianople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) July 31 / August 12 1877.

IN conformity with orders received from Safvet Pasha I dispatched, in the direction of Karlova, a detachment composed of the regular troops in garrison at Philippopolis, as also the territorial troops there (Mustafiz), and some companies of auxiliaries, with two mountain guns. The object of this movement was that of rescuing and bringing away the Mussulman inhabitants of the villages in the Nahié of Kupsi (which is in the Caza of Philippopolis), those villages being blockaded by Bulgarian insurgents; and, at the same time, to repress the insurrectionary movement among the Bulgarians of Karlova and Aktché-Kilissé.

The aide-de-camp, Eshref Bey, and Hadji Ahmed Pasha, a notable of Philippopolis and commander of the auxiliary troops, having just returned from those parts, report as follows:—

On the arrival of the detachment at the Nahié of Kupsi, its first care was to

cause the Mussulman inhabitants of the villages which had been blockaded, and whose position was most exposed, to be conveyed to Philippopolis. The detachment then marched upon Karlova. On its arrival before that place two wings were thrown out, and these enveloping the town enabled the Mussulman and Jewish inhabitants to come out from among the Bulgarians, who in the meanwhile had retired behind some batteries and earthworks which they had raised at one end of the town. The insurgents having opened fire from these works, our troops replied. When ten of the Bulgarians had been hit, recognizing the hopelessness of resistance, they sent one of their number, a notable, with offers of submission and prayers for quarter. Thereupon part of the detachment marched into the town, accepted the submission of the rebels, and deprived them of their arms.

As to the expedition sent against Aktché-Kilissé, one or two cannon-shots from our side sufficed to make the insurgents there throw themselves on our mercy.

At Karlova the regulars had three wounded, and the auxiliary troops two killed and two wounded.

Inclosure 7 in No. 291.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, August 2, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a telegram which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador concerning the relatively bloodless result of the military expedition which started from here on the 27th ultimo to chastise the villages of Carlowo, Sopot, and Kalofer, at the foot of the Balkans, for having joined the Russians, as reported in my despatch of 30th July.

When the expedition left Philippopolis lively apprehensions were felt by the Christians here as to the fate of the above villages. I had several earnest conversations with the Mutessarif on the subject, and elicited from him the satisfactory assurances mentioned in my last despatch, and which, according to Eshref Bey, have been borne out by the conduct of the Turkish troops.

The Mutevelli, or feudal lord, of Carlowo, who last year played a "rôle" most creditable to himself in protecting the Christian inhabitants from the fury of Tossoun Bey, has, I regret to state, been brought here under arrest and placed in close confinement. He is charged with having taken an active part in persuading the Mussulman population of Carlowo and neighbouring villages to disarm and offer no resistance to the Russians, and also with having gone out to meet and make his submission to the enemy.

About ten days ago, he states, some hundred Cossacks rode into Carlowo, where they were received by the Bulgarians with open arms, and helped the latter to arm themselves at the expense of the Mussulman and Jewish communities, whose houses were searched, and all the weapons found in their possession appropriated by the Bulgarians. The officer in command of the Cossacks then demanded that a deputation of the inhabitants, consisting of the principal members of the different communities, should proceed to greet the Russians at Kalofer, which place they had occupied in greater force, and that the Mudir and the Mutevelli, whom he mentioned by name, should represent the Mussulman community. Not daring to disobey, they both proceeded to Kalofer, in company with members of the Christian and Jewish communities; but at Kalofer, the Russian officer before whom they were brought directed them to go to Kezanlik. The Mutevelli, pleading old age as an excuse, suggested that his nephew, who had accompanied him, should go in his stead, and this request was granted.

On arriving at Kezanlik the deputation was taken before General Gourko, who gave them a brief audience. He inquired which of them was the Mudir, and addressing that functionary informed him that he should be maintained in his post as Governor of Carlowo.

This Mudir, it will be recollected, behaved very well during last year's troubles, and, in conjunction with the Mutevelli, was the means of saving Carlowo from destruction.

The whole of the Mussulman and Jewish communities of Carlowo are now here, having been summoned by the Commander of the Turkish troops to come out of the village before its investiture by the troops.

None of the persons arrested at Carlowo have yet been brought to Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 8 in No. 291.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 2, 1877.*

YESTERDAY it was reported here that villages of Carlowo and Sopot, at foot of Balkans, had been burnt, and general massacre of inhabitants had been made by troops sent from here to punish them for joining Russians. Eshref Bey, son of Mushir, Safvet Pasha, and Aide-de-camp of Sultan, who accompanied these troops, returned here last night, and informs me that inhabitants surrendered at once, only a few firing at troops. Eight or ten of inhabitants were killed, and on side of troops two killed, one wounded. No houses burned. Ringleaders and head men of Carlowo and Sopot were arrested, and probably will arrive here to-day. He encountered no Russians, but some 200 Cossacks are reported still at Kalofer.

Inclosure 9 in No. 291.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Philippopolis, August 2, 1877.*

A TELEGRAM was received here yesterday from Said Agha, Governor of Tchirpan, announcing the capture and complete destruction, the day before, of Eski-Zaghra by Suleiman Pasha's troops. He adds that the Christian population was nearly exterminated.

This news is confirmed in all, save the last particular, by information received by the railway officials here, according to which the Russians, having left but a small detachment in the town, with a few guns, and having armed the whole of the Christian population, the town was attacked and bombarded by the Turkish troops, and captured after four hours' fighting.

With regard to the alleged massacre of the Christian population, it is possible that the facts may have been exaggerated by Said Agha. This individual is a notorious fanatic, ignorant and tyrannical; he has yet, by reason of the influence accruing to him from his landed possessions and his relationship to Abdul Kerim Pasha, late Serdar Ekrem, exercised for a considerable time past an almost unlimited sway over the administration of his district. The successive Kaïmakams sent to Tchirpan were mere puppets in his hands, whom he had the power of getting superseded whenever they attempted to assert their authority. About a month ago Said Agha was himself appointed Kaïmakam.

It is to be feared that the Christian inhabitants being now completely at his mercy, will suffer more than ever. Most of them, it is true, are stated to be in open rebellion; his farms are reported to have been burnt by them; but I cannot too strongly urge that the character of this man be brought to the notice of his superiors, with a view to his speedy removal.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

P.S.—I omitted to state in my previous despatch of this date, that two field batteries of Krupp guns, and four mountain pieces, have been brought here by train from Adrianople within the last few days. One of the mountain pieces was, on the 30th ultimo, sent to the troops at Carlowo.

F. R. J. C.

Inclosure 10 in No. 291.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report that, notwithstanding the positive statements made to me by Eshref Bey relative to the submission of the villages of Carlowo and Sopot, the news is distinctly and positively contradicted by Turks who have arrived in town to-day from the neighbourhood of those villages. They report that the male inhabitants still refused up to this morning to come out of the church, where they had shut themselves up, leaving their wives and children at home.

Eshref Bey left this morning to join his father, Salvet Pasha, at Tehirpan, and I am consequently unable to ask him for an explanation of his statements, which he made to me in the presence of the Mutessarif.

The truth of his story is further belied by the non-appearance of the Bulgarian ringleaders, who, according to him, were under arrest and on their way to Philippopoli.

The temptation to plunder the two villages appears, however, to have been resisted up to the present, Mahmoud Bey, the Colonel in command of the troops, having, I am informed, issued the most stringent orders against acts of pillage, and even prevented the "auxiliary troops" from entering either of the villages. A few, who left yesterday morning for Carlowo to try and recover some of his effects, returned this evening and reports that he found intact the articles in his house and shop, down to the money in his till.

Most of the villages in the district of Carlowo, however (both Mussulman and Christian), having been abandoned with great precipitation by the inhabitants, they offer facilities for plunder hardly to be resisted by the most exemplary troops. Two soldiers were last night caught in the act of offering for sale some bottles of rose oil; they were immediately arrested and put in irons. One of them bitterly complained that, if he had stolen a pound's worth of oil, he had himself been robbed of five pounds by Bulgarians. About a dozen gipsies were also convicted to-day of thefts in the abandoned villages, and lodged in prison.

Judging by these and other incidents, I am glad to infer that the Turkish authorities in general realise the value of the advice which, in presence of the provocations offered by the Russian troops, I have, as instructed by you, and in the name of Her Majesty's Government, urged upon them.

Some 150 Circassians arrived here yesterday from Ihtiman. Their chiefs repaired to the presence of Rassim Pasha, who commands the few troops remaining here, and said:—

"We hear you have an insurrection here. We have come to help you to suppress it."

The Pasha thanked them for their proffered services, and expressed a hope that, as Suleiman Pasha's army was in need of reinforcements, they would go and join it. Their sole object being plunder, the Circassians said they were not prepared to go so far; but Rassim Pasha steadily refused to employ them here, and they were accordingly sent back to Ihtiman this morning.

The notorious Tossoun Bey, who fled from Carlowo about a month ago, arrived at Philippopoli to-day, with ninety Bashi-Bazouks, whom he has collected, on his own responsibility, in the district of Hasskeui. He asked for leave to march against Carlowo, but he has likewise been told by the Mutessarif that his services are not wanted in that quarter, though he may go and fight the Russians, if he pleases, under Suleiman Pasha.

From the head-quarters of that General, it is reported that the irregular troops under his orders are subjected to a discipline nearly as severe as that of the regular troops. Twenty-five irregulars are said to have been shot by his order for unruly conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 11 in No. 291.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

MOST distressing accounts have been arriving here during the past few days of mutual reprisals throughout the region lying between Kyzanlik and Hasskeui. The Russians appear to have succeeded in raising a large proportion of the Christian peasantry in that region, and the consequence is said to have been the destruction of scores of villages, both Christian and Mussulman, and the massacre of numbers of innocent persons on both sides.

It is impossible for me to state at present what degree of truth there is in these reports, the only available sources of information being the Kaimakam of Tehirpan and the railway officials. The former states, in reply to inquiries from the Mutessarif, that six Mussulman villages have been completely destroyed in his Caza, but makes no mention of a similar fate having befallen any Christian villages, though he states that many of the latter have been abandoned.

It is much to be feared that this account falls far short of the truth, and that wide-spread destruction and misery have fallen upon what were until lately the most prosperous portions of this sandjak.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 291.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 10, 1877.

Sir,

THE Governor-General of Adrianople, Ibrahim Pasha, continues to receive from the Commander-in-chief of the forces in the Balkans most shocking accounts of atrocities perpetrated by the Bulgarians with the countenance of the Russian military authorities.

I inclose translations of two telegrams of yesterday's date from Suleiman Pasha, which have been communicated to me by the Governor-General.

On the other hand, my Austrian colleague has read to me extracts of a report from the Austrian Vice-Consul at Philippopolis dated the 7th instant, stating that he had heard that the Bashi-Bazouks have retaliated with savage cruelty on the Bulgarian inhabitants of Karlowa, killing, besides many men, several women and children.

I have spoken to Ibrahim Pasha most earnestly on the subject of this last statement, urging his Excellency to telegraph to the Commander-in-chief as well as to the Mutessarif of Philippopolis, calling upon them to take stringent measures for putting a stop to proceedings so injurious to the credit and the interests of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 13 in No. 291.

Suleiman Pasha to Ibrahim Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

July 24. August 6. 1877.

I REGRET to inform your Excellency that we continue to find daily in the forests near Eski-Zaghra great numbers of Mussulman women and children, victims of the barbarous persecution of the Bulgarians, and fugitives from the villages of Kyzanlik. The patrols which were sent out yesterday fell in with 250 of these unfortunates, who were barefoot. They have been conducted in safety to Yeni-Zaghra. To-day again, seventy-eight women and children have been discovered. These are all being dispatched to Adrianople. Among them are some wounded whom I have had properly attended to. There were but eighteen men with them. Others belonging to these same families were massacred.

Inclosure 14 in No. 291.

Suleiman Pasha to Ibrahim Pasha.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

July 28/August 9, 1877.

I ANNOUNCED to your Excellency at the time how a detachment of 250 mounted Zeïbeks succeeded in rescuing from the savage hands of the Bulgarians and Russians and in bringing to Kara-Bounar 10,000 male and female inhabitants of Kyzanlik. I explained at the same time how 2,000 other inhabitants remained shut up in that town, partly owing to the attacks of the Russians and partly also to the unsteadiness of the Zeïbeks.

Subsequently, with a view to save and bring away this remnant as well, I dispatched yesterday a body of 500 irregular horse, composed chiefly of auxiliaries from Balikesra, and including fifty Circassians.

It is with feelings of the profoundest sorrow that I now have to inform your Excellency, on the authority of a Mussulman fugitive from Kyzanlik, who has just arrived here, that after the departure of the above-mentioned 10,000 inhabitants with the detachment of Zeïbeks, the Bulgarians in their barbarity perpetrated a general massacre of the male population remaining at Kyzanlik, and carried off with them to the Balkans the women and children.

Inclosure 15 in No. 291.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 11, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by the Vali of Adrianople that the Bulgarian Exarch has told the Porte that he would address a Pastoral letter to his clergy in this and other districts of this vilayet, expressing his indignation at the un-Christian conduct of the Bulgarians in the parts of the country invaded by the Russian army, and urging the priesthood to use their spiritual influence over their flocks to observe a loyal attitude towards the Ottoman authorities, and to cultivate friendly relations towards their Mahommedan neighbours.

In the inclosed despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis reference is made to the language held by the Vicar with regard to the excesses of the Bulgarians, and also to the behaviour of the Russians towards the Bulgarians in leaving them to the vengeance of those whom they had infuriated.

Mr. Dupuis further reports some particulars given by Pope Constantine regarding the massacres and outrages perpetrated by the Cossacks and Bulgarians at Eski-Zaghra, and the acts of retaliation visited upon the latter by the Turkish troops which recaptured the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 16 in No 291.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 11, 1877.

Sir,

POPE CONSTANTINE, the Bulgarian Vicar in Adrianople, in recounting to me the following occurrences in Eski-Zaghra on the 26th and 27th of July, blames the Bulgarians, and stigmatizes as infamous the conduct of the Russians in abandoning to an angry soldiery a people whom they had incited to revolt.

Some Bulgarians, natives of Eski-Zaghra, under pretext that Turkish women had fired from windows and killed one or two Cossacks, united themselves with those troops, and with other Bulgarians wearing the Russian uniform, attacked and murdered all the Mussulmans they found in the streets, broke into and pillaged their houses, and dishonoured their women.

On the Turkish forces appearing a fight ensued, and the Russians being defeated, the officer commanding made his escape in all haste, followed pell-mell by his troops, who, treacherously deceiving the Bulgarian population, persuaded it to remain in the village, with the assurance that they had nothing to fear from the Turks.

The consequence was that no sooner did the irregulars enter Eski-Zaghra when they took cruel vengeance on the Christians, and, I am told, burnt alive several people who had taken refuge in the Church of St. Dimitri.

Many, however, made their escape, and were, with other women and children, collected and brought to Adrianople by the Turkish authorities and placed under the care of the Vicar.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 17 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Yeni-Zara, July 28, 1877.

Sir,

ON the 25th instant I telegraphed in Turkish to inform you that the Russians had occupied Eski-Zagra (this occupation occurred, I understand, about 3.30 P.M. on 22nd instant), I also mentioned that I had heard that the Turkish patrols had met a party of armed Bulgars with Cossacks, and that the Russians or the Bulgars had burnt all the Mussulmans' houses in the neighbourhood of Eski-Zagra. I also informed you that the Russians had destroyed some bridges on the line of railway between Yeni-Zagra and Tirnova, and between Tirnova and Philippopoli.

About noon on the 26th I received a telegram in Turkish from Consul Dupuis, of which, I believe, the following is the translation:—

"I have received a telegram from the Ambassador, in which he begs me to inform you that he wishes you to be with Mehemet Ali, who will receive you very well. At the same time the Ambassador asks you to report whether the Turks are ill-treated or massacred by the Russians or not."

I forwarded to you the same day a telegram in Turkish which was intended to give the following report:—

"In reply to a telegram received from Consul Dupuis, I beg to report that I have not been able to visit the villages which have been occupied by the Russians, but his Excellency the Muchir, Raouf Pasha, to-day examined in my presence eleven Mussulmans who came from the village of Isova (Giurgovo), Saltiklar (Salturkova) Ufiani (Lebuti), Buklumuk, and Herauli." (N.B., the first three names are marked on the new Austrian staff map, they are in Kyzanlik district; the last two names I cannot find on the maps). I inclose an envelope on which the Turkish names as taken down by Raouf Pasha are given; my telegram mentioned that "Raouf Pasha permitted me to question the men. They stated that when the Russians enter a village they order all Mussulmans to put on turbans and to give up their arms; the Russians then give their arms at once to the Bulgars, who, after that, ill-treat the Mussulmans; in some villages the Bulgarians violate the women; from one village two men only escaped; the Bulgars kill the men and the children; one of the men I saw had had two of his children massacred; the Bulgars, the man told me, had fired five musket-shots at him though he was unarmed. The cattle and flocks of the Mussulmans have been taken by the Bulgars. When the Bulgars act in this manner there are always some Russians with them. The Bulgars burn all the property of Mussulmans."

In the same telegram I reported that the "Circassians had driven off nearly 20,000 sheep and between 3,000 and 4,000 head of cattle, but that his Excellency Raouf Pasha had given orders, to which the Circassians had agreed, that these animals should be handed over to the Government of Adrianople. The Mushir was unable to restore the animals as the inhabitants had left the neighbourhood."

From further inquiries I have no reason to doubt the general accuracy of the story told by the above-mentioned eleven Mussulmans.

On the 26th instant, Lieutenant Chermside and myself saw an armed party of Bulgars, mounted and on foot, patrolling the country, and carrying a large white flag with some device on it. We saw them from the Rana Mahalemi railway-station, which had, moreover, been pillaged by a band of armed Bulgars; these men had desired the station-master to leave the place, as they were going to burn the station, in the same way as they had done the railway-watchmen's houses. The station-master refused to leave, and threatened to shoot the first man who attempted it. The men, however, stole his property before his eyes. This band was not under the guidance of Russians.

On the 26th instant we went from Yeni-Zaara to Karabounar in a hand-worked trolley, and saw the damage done by the Russians, and their Bulgarian assistants, to the railway-bridges, &c., and to the telegraph-line.

The railway-watchmen's houses, and also the residence of a railway official, near Karabounar, were burnt by the Bulgars, it appears, not under the direction of Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 18 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Eski-Dschuma, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

IN my letter of 28th ultimo I gave some information as to alleged ill-treatment of Turks by the Russians and their allies. I shall continue to report further cases, as unless representations be made, the war will assume a very horrible aspect, owing to reprisals.

On the morning of the 28th ultimo nine fugitives arrived at Yeni-Zaara from Küdirbe, and reported a massacre at that place. In the course of the day I saw the people (four men, three women, and two little children), and took down their account of the affair. I was proceeding to Slivno that afternoon, but left a telegram at Yeni-Zaara, to be sent to you in French if possible, but not in Turkish. It was to the following effect:—

Yesterday, 27th, there was an affair near Yeni-Zaara between a regiment of Russian dragoons and some of the Turkish troops. The Russians were repulsed. After the action, according to the statements made to me by the survivors, two Russian cavalry soldiers came to the village of Küdirbe." (Marked on the new Austrian Staff Map, about half-way between Yeni-Zaara and Eski-Zaara, at a little to the north of the road.) "In this village since several days had been assembled Turkish families from the villages of Jasirin and Dgembazli as well as those of Küdirbe. The men were deprived of their arms by the Bulgars, who did not allow them to escape, and who took away their arabas (country carts) and cattle. The two Russians fired upon the outer door of the premises where the greater number of the Turks were, and the Bulgars broke it open with stones. The Bulgars then fired over the walls upon the men who were in the court-yard; they were encouraged by one of the priests. Later they killed with swords and knives the women and children who were in the houses. They still keep possession of the young women. The Turks had only sticks, and killed only one Bulgar. There were 500 persons. The four men, three women, and two children who had arrived here confirm the story, and say they are the only people who have escaped. The ground they say was covered with dead bodies, but there may be other survivors in the outhouses. They were much distressed in relating their misfortunes. The evidence of the different persons agreed, and appeared worthy of acceptance."

The following are the statements I took down, as interpreted by my own Dragoman (Yanio).

Sali, a man of Küdirbe, states that two Cossacks had been to his village, and taken the arms from the Turks and given them to the Bulgars. They took away all their knives, their furniture, their sheep, and cattle. The Turks from two other villages (Dzembezli and Jasirin) had come to Küdirbe, in arabas (carts), which were all taken away from them by the Bulgars. After the fight yesterday, 27th, two Cossacks (query dragoons; they wore white caps) came to the village, and told the Bulgars to kill the people now, and they did so. They killed men, women, and children. He himself lost his wife, his son, and his child. The Bulgars took ten to twenty young women, and have kept them. There were about 500 Turks at the village, and they only know of the escape of three men belonging to Küdirbe, and one of Dzembazli, besides three women and two children.

Ganimés, a woman of Küdirbe, gave the same account, but when asked about the number killed, says more than fifty. She had with her a little girl, her grand-daughter.

Hussein, a one-armed man of Küdirbe, states that a lot of women were collected in his house. The Bulgars of his village called the women out one by one, and killed them with knives, "like sheep." There were about 500 people in all. The Bulgars kept the young women, saying they would have them for wives.

Mustapha, of Küdirbe, states that in his house sixteen collected, and he only had escaped. His father, an old man, was killed. The two Cossacks fired at the outer gate twice. The Bulgars threw stones to break in the gate; they killed the men in the yard and the women in the rooms. There were two priests belonging to the village, and the young priest, "Mino," told the Bulgarians in his hearing that now was their time to rise. There were 300 Turks, and he does not know how many are left; some may be hid.

Feridaga, a woman of Küdirbe, states that the Bulgars killed all the people except those that have run away; the Bulgars told them to come out, as they were going to take them into their houses, and then they killed them; her young daughter was taken away and kept by the Bulgars; there were at least 100 bodies. She had brought from Küdirbe with her a little girl, her grand-daughter.

Halir, a man of Dzembazli, states that the people of his village had packed up everything in arabas (carts) to come to Yeni Zaara, and had reached Küdirbe six days ago; the Bulgars detained them at Küdirbe; the Bulgar Tehurhadji (headman of village) told them that they were to stay there quietly, and would not be hurt; they were disarmed on arrival at Küdirbe by the Bulgars; he did not see any Cossacks. On the 27th his father was killed close to him by a musket-shot fired over the wall by Bulgars; the women were killed with swords; the Turks had a fight with the Bulgars in the village, and they killed one Bulgar with sticks; when they got out of the village, the Bulgars followed them and fired. There were thirty families of his village (Dzembazli) at Küdirbe, and he is the only person who has escaped. There were at Küdirbe ten families from Jasirin at the same time as the people from Dzembazli. From Kavlikeni (south of the Yeni Zaara and Eski Zaara road) one family had come to Küdirbe, and have all been killed. There were 600 Turks collected at Küdirbe, and only those now at Yeni Zaara, viz., nine persons, have escaped.

One woman of Küdirbe, the other survivor of the nine, did not come in to be examined by me.

As regards the numbers that were present in the village of Küdirbe at the time of the massacre, it was very difficult to get a distinct estimate; this was owing to there being refugees there from Jasirin, Dzembazli, and Cavlikeni; the survivors could not state positively how many were killed, and the numbers they mentioned were only very rough estimates, obtained from them with difficulty.

Having seen the witnesses, and observed their manner of giving evidence, I see no reason whatever to doubt the accuracy of their statements; Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., was present, and has sufficient knowledge of the language to understand the greater part of the questions and answers; he imagines from their manner that their emotion was genuine, and that their story will at any rate prove partially true.

At Slivno I found Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy, and informed him of the Küdirbe massacre; I had heard that Raouf Pasha was going to proceed from Yeni Zaara towards Eski Zaara, and hoped, therefore, that Mr. Brophy would be able to visit Küdirbe.

Before leaving Slivno, on the 30th ultimo, I left the following telegram to be forwarded to you in Turkish:—

"It is officially reported that Osman Pasha has occupied Lofteha. Consul Brophy proceeds to-day from Slivno to visit Küdirbe, where Turks are reported to have been murdered, and afterwards to visit Güneliy Mahallessi, the scene of the massacre of Bulgarians by the Circassians. Mehemet Ali said to be at Rasgrad, so we proceed there instead of to Shumla."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché*

Inclosure 19 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Eski-Dschuma, August 2, 1877.

Sir,

IN my letter of the 29th ultimo I gave particulars of a massacre of Bulgarians at Güneliy Mahalesi, on the 20th, by Circassians. Since then I have passed along the road that the Circassians who apparently committed the outrage marched by on their way from Shumla to Yeni-Zahgra, and I now give particulars relative to their excesses,

which I have obtained from the inhabitants of the villages. I omit all mention of cases that people had heard had been committed at other villages, and I do not refer to Slivno, as Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy was at that place after their march through it, and will have reported about it if necessary.

At Wetschera (Vécera) the inhabitants informed me that the Circassians pillaged, and also stole sixteen horses. (I may mention here that, since the Circassians passed through, eighty or ninety Mustahfiz have been distributed between Wetschera, Baschkeui, Papaskeui, Katinista, and Naykuckeny (Nhikova). On the 29th ultimo, the day before we were there, four Circassians arrived at Wetschera, and took away one horse and two oxen; the twelve Mustahfiz, armed with long Enfields, who were quartered at the place, turned out and recovered the animals, after firing five or six shots at the Circassians, who replied four or five times.)

Baschkeui is reported to have suffered very much from the Circassians. The village lies a little way off the road, and I did not visit it or see any of its villagers; but the fact of Baschkeui having suffered was admitted by the Mudir (Mayor) of Kasan. At Kasan the Circassians had arrived on the 19th ultimo (the day we had left the place); they looted half-a-dozen houses; they went to the new church, but failed to get an entrance into it, and only fired at the cross on it. On appeal from the Mudir, the colonel commanding the troops in the camp above Kasan at once sent down regular troops, and this the inhabitants thought alone saved the town from massacre, burning, and pillaging; of 200 animals that had been taken by the Circassians from one man alone, almost all were recovered by the regular troops, and the Circassians only carried off about forty horses.

At Tchatak, on the 19th ultimo, 500 or 600 Circassians arrived. The village we had remarked as we passed through it on the previous day was apparently a snug, thriving little place of 160 houses, 80 Turkish and 80 Bulgarian; the Circassians pillaged all the Bulgarian houses and the house of one Turk; they broke into the church, and took all the silver lamps (four) and the Communion plate, overturned the altar, and ransacked everything in the church. They stole two horses; one Bulgarian was wounded with a knife. The Bulgars told me that their Turkish fellow-villagers had been very kind to them, had tried to persuade the Circassians to cease their pillage, and had helped them since.

I thanked the Turks I saw there, and pointed out to them that marauding Circassians were enemies to all the inhabitants. Only Bulgarian men, old women to cook, and children remain at Tschatak; the rest have taken refuge at Kasan, which is an entirely Christian town. The inhabitants at Tschatak are gesting in their harvest; they mentioned to me that the Zebeks from Kasan came down to their village every night and stole sheep. From Osman-Bazar I telegraphed to Achmet Bey, commanding the troops in the camp above Kasan, to inform him of the villagers' complaint, and I have no doubt that he will take steps to stop his Zebeks stealing at Tschatak, as he has already done at Kasan itself.

At Osman Bazar the Circassians, according to the Bulgar's account, pillaged considerably, though the Mutessarif of Tirnova, now at Osman-Bazar, makes light of it. He, however, states that he flogged nine Circassians for their misbehaviour. The Bulgarians declare that the only way the Mutessarif was able to get the Circassians out of the town was by galloping through the town with his zapiehs, shouting that the Russians were coming, and desiring the Circassians to come to the camp. The Mutessarif evidently did not think lightly of the pillaging at the time, as, according to his own statements, he telegraphed off to Kasan to warn the Mudir there that the Circassians were coming, and to tell the inhabitants to close their shops, and all to stay in their houses.

South of the Balkans the harvest was partly cut, but now no one appears to venture into the fields to cut or to carry the corn. The villages on the road between Yeni-Zaghra and Slivno are entirely deserted; one dead body, said to be that of a Bulgar, lay unburied near the road.

North of the Balkans, however, the harvest is being cut and carried, and there appears to be more security for life and property.

Speaking in a general way, the shops of all the towns and villages we have passed through since the Circassian passage have been closed.

The Turkish army is deficient in cavalry, and I am not prepared to say that the Commander-in-chief could dispense with the services of the Circassians, but I do consider that some means should be adopted to reduce these marauders to order. Some persons excuse them by saying they are not paid, but they are fed as well as the regular troops are; and the regulars are also practically unpaid, as their pay is, I believe, many months in arrears. Mild punishments will not answer, and the Circassians will not be reduced to order, I believe, until very severe measures are taken against them; many, I expect, must be shot in order to deter the rest from committing excesses. They are now turning the country south of the Balkans through which they have moved from a fruitful one, with many villages possessing flocks and herds, into a desert, with uninhabited villages; the flocks and herds they have driven off, and the villages and crops they have destroyed by fire. The military authorities must feel the inconveniences of the course pursued by the Circassians, as they cannot find transport or food supplies, which otherwise would have been plentiful.

One instance has been recounted, in which a body of about 200 Circassians passed through Kasan without doing any damage. The officer in command (an Aide-de-camp I understand) halted his men two miles from the town, and sent in to state what supplies he required, which were at once furnished. He inquired whether it was possible to avoid actually passing through the town, but was told it was not. He accordingly passed through Kasan the next morning, but, owing to the measures he had taken, no excesses occurred.

The Circassians are a terror to the peaceable inhabitants, and evidently not without just cause, as the events at Gumetly Mahalesi point out. Even if the authorities cannot, to the best of their belief, repress the plundering, they might at least point out to the Circassians that it is bad policy killing the inhabitants; if they suffer them to live they might explain to them the Bulgars will again accumulate property, cattle, &c., and beautify their churches, and thus provide spoil for the Circassians in some future years; whereas, if they destroy the men, women, and children, there will never be any prospect of further looting, which appears to be the Circassians' main delight.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 20 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Eski-Dechona, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

WHILE talking to the Mutessarif of Tirnova, who was at Osman Bazar, on the 31st ultimo and 1st instant, he mentioned that the Turkish population between Osman Bazar and Tirnova had been much ill-treated since the occupation by the Russians.

Before leaving Osman Bazar on the 1st instant, I telegraphed to you in Turkish to the following effect:—

"The Mutessarif of Tirnova, who is now at Osman Bazar, assures me that the Bulgarians and the Russians have murdered the Turkish men, women, and children at Alwan, Batakeui, Kosaviva, Koslebesk, Monklar, and other villages (to the number of fifteen in all, he said), and have burnt those villages. He declares that at Shenesikeui the Bulgarians drove the men, women, and children into the mosque, and then set it on fire and burnt them. I cannot go to these villages, and I have not seen any of their inhabitants. The Turks had been previously told by the Russians that if they gave up their arms no harm should happen to them; they had given their arms up, and were unable to defend themselves from the Bulgarians, who were armed by the Russians."

The Mutessarif offered to send for some of the people from the above villages, but I had not time to wait and examine them. He mentioned also that the village of Demiskeui had been burnt, though no people had been murdered there.

Whether the Turks in these villages have been murdered or not, it is evident that the authorities believe in them. The Turkish irregulars will assuredly retaliate when they have the opportunity, and there are said to be about 4,000 Bashi-Bazouks about Osman Bazar. I much fear that the war will assume a very inhuman character unless prompt measures be taken by both belligerents to repress all excesses by their own troops, regular and irregular, and by their allies or partizans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 21 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Eski-Djuma, August 3, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to forward the following information regarding the treatment of Turks by Bulgarians and Russians, which was communicated to me by his Excellency Muchir Raouf Pasha, previous to the receipt of your instructions on the above subject on the 26th ultimo by telegram from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Adrianople. By a telegram of the 19th ultimo from Behova, it appears that the Russians summoned the inhabitants to give up their arms; they refused, and the Russians killed all and burnt the village.

On the next day the Russians burnt the villages round Ahmetlu; at Sunjaklar, some three hours west of Eski-Zaghra, of twelve unarmed Turks who surrendered to the Cossacks, three were killed by the Cossacks, seven by the Bulgarians, and two escaped to Eski-Zaghra.

I have not any personal knowledge, nor am I in possession of details confirmatory of the above, and merely incidentally bring the statement to your notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 22 in No. 291.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Shumla, August 7, 1877.

Sir,

IN my letter of June 20 last I reported the damage that had been done to the Turkish hospital at Rustchuk by the Russian shells.

The correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph," who was at Nikopoli at the time, states that the hospital at that place was destroyed by the Russian batteries the very day I quitted the place, viz., June 27. The hospitals at Rustchuk were within the works, but the hospital at Nikopoli was not near the citadel or any of the forts or batteries. The citadel and old fortifications are on the heights to the west of the ravine, whereas the hospital was on the slope of the hill to the east of the ravine, 300 or 400 yards to the east of those works. Nor can it be pretended that the hospital was in the line of fire from any Russian battery to any Turkish work.

The hospital when I saw it had the Geneva flag flying, but I cannot speak to the height of the flagstaff.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. LENNOX, *Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 23 in No. 291.

Captain Fife to Mr. Layard.

Camp, at Yeni-Zara, August 6, 1877.

Sir,

IN my previous despatch I had the honour to draw the attention of your Excellency to the barbarous character which the war in Roumelia is rapidly assuming. Since writing it yesterday I am able to furnish you with the following additional information.

On the 5th August, when passing a guard house near Yeni Zara, I saw a partly burnt body at the side of the road, and was informed by the Turkish officers that a sergeant of Zaptiehs had been killed there.

On the 5th August, near Yeni Zara, a Mussulman refugee from Kesanlyk reported that the male Mussulman inhabitants of that place had been massacred.

On the 5th August, on approaching Yeni Zara, at a distance of about six miles, we saw that it was burning, and on the Turkish cavalry reaching it about fifty Bulgarians, armed, and wearing Russian caps, were found, and it is said were engaged in burning the houses of Mussulmans. The fire was extinguished by the troops, and a cordon of sentries was placed around the village, to prevent the soldiers entering.

On the 6th, at Yeni Zara, an old Mussulman woman came into camp, and stated that she was a native of the village of Yahseren, and on the approach of the Russians had fled with the Mussulman inhabitants to Jambazle, and the Mussulman inhabitants of these two villages then fled to Hudesbey (villages in the districts of Eski and Yeni Zara). On the arrival of the Russians the inhabitants (Mussulmans), without respect to age or sex, of the three villages were massacred.

On the 6th August, at Yeni Zara, five Mussulman inhabitants of the village of Uflahanli, in the district of Kesanlyk, came into camp, and said that a massacre of the Mussulman male inhabitants had taken place, and that the women had been violated.

Suleiman Pasha, speaking of the deplorable way in which the war was being conducted by the Russians and Bulgarians, which was sure to lead to reprisals by the Turkish troops, whatever could be done to stop them, said that he would wish to see an armistice imposed on the combatants through pressure by the influence of the neutral Powers, during which time would be afforded for rules being agreed to by both parties for the more humane conduct of the war.

From a military point of view, I consider that an armistice at the present moment might be highly prejudicial to the interests of Turkey, as, owing to the lateness of the season, it is probable that the Russians will, in Asia, not seriously attack again in Armenia this summer, but may send round reinforcements from that side to the Danube, and an armistice might give time for their arrival.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. FIFE, *Captain, Military Attaché.*

Inclosure 24 in No. 291.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, August 7, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the Bashi-Bazouks are being sent on to the front; 340 on Sunday last, the 5th instant, by French Steam Company, "Traissinet" to Dedeaghatch; yesterday 150 went by land on horseback, and to-day from 200 to 300 are going by the Messageries boat to Dedeaghatch.

I am happy to say no disturbance of any kind has taken place here since their arrival.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD BARKER.

No. 292.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 22.)

(No. 933.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter which has been addressed to me at my request by Mr. Bond and Mr. Marsh, American missionaries to the Bulgarians, with respect to the occurrences at Eski-Zaghra after its capture by the Russians. The statement of these gentlemen, supplemented by that made by Captain Fife (see my despatch No. 916 of the 9th instant), will give your Lordship a trustworthy and full account of what took place in that town, and will enable you to judge to whom the blame for it is to be principally attributed.

It is satisfactory to find from Captain Fife, who had means of judging as to what happened after Messrs. Bond and Marsh had left Eski-Zaghra, that the destruction of the town by fire was far from being as complete as those gentlemen suppose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 292

The Rev. L. Bond to Mr. Layard.

Constantinople, August 14, 1877.

Sir,

IN accordance with the request of your Excellency, I submit the following statement of recent occurrences at Eski-Zaghra, in European Turkey:—

"On the 14th ultimo, the city was intensely excited by the report that the Russians had crossed the Balkans at the Hain Pass. The Vali at Adrianople telegraphed, instructing the Kaïmakam to make every possible effort to protect the city until help could be sent. Irregular troops were at once armed and sent out on the road to Kyzanlik, and they met the enemy at a point some two-and-a-half hours distant. Fighting continued until Tuesday, the 17th ultimo, when the Russians took Kyzanlik. Great praise is certainly due to the authorities and Mussulman citizens of Eski-Zaghra for the energy displayed in this emergency. They did all that was possible under the circumstances.

As no assistance came from Adrianople or elsewhere, it was decided on Tuesday to recall the irregular troops and surrender the city. In the meantime, there seemed to be a strong desire on the part of the worst class of Turkish citizens and villagers who were present to fall upon the Christian community for plunder, if not for massacre. We know that the Kaïmakam, Sahib Effendi, and the leading Beys, particularly Emin Pasha, were active in measures to preserve peace, and during this critical period the Kaïmakam kindly provided Mr. Marsh and myself with a guard. The Christians believed that the radical party of the Turks had matured plans to fall upon them on Monday, July 23, and, therefore, messengers were secretly sent to Kyzanlik to urge the Russians to hasten their coming. The Russians entered the city on the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, and were welcomed by the Bulgarians with unbounded demonstrations of joy. Altogether there were about 2,000 Russian cavalry, with three mountain howitzers. The Turkish authorities surrendered a quantity of arms, some of which were at once distributed to the Christians at the entrance of the city.

The same evening a large number of Turkish and a few Jew shops were broken open and pillaged. This was done almost exclusively by villagers, and met the strongest opposition of the Christian citizens. The Russians did not seem to do much to arrest the pillage. Some of their patrols encouraged it, though none of them shared in the spoils.

The leading Christians repeatedly expressed to Mr. Marsh and myself their profound regret for these excesses of the villagers, and we saw numbers of them endeavouring to put a stop to the pillage.

On Monday more cavalry arrived, with 4 pieces of artillery, and 5 or 6 companies of the Bulgarian legion. In the evening most of the cavalry left for an attack on the railroad, and they destroyed the station at Kasskeui, on the line between Adrianople and Philippopolis. The Turkish villagers on the plain hearing the cannonading of the station became alarmed, and hastily fled. Their Christian neighbours supposing themselves safe in the arms of Russia visited these deserted villages with ox-carts, and after thoroughly plundering them set the houses on fire. As the Russians made no more important demonstrations the Turkish peasants returned, and in retaliation visited the Christian villages with fire and sword. This statement refers to villages south and south-west of Eski-Zaghra.

On Wednesday, July 25, six Turks were hung and four more, including a woman, were shot by the Russians. These were found with arms upon them, and they were charged with firing on Cossacks as they were passing in the streets. It was evident from the first that the Turks had actually surrendered but a small portion of their arms and ammunition. It was, therefore, proclaimed that after a certain hour all Turks found with arms would be executed, and it was further ordered that until the surrender of their arms no food be supplied them.

On Thursday, July 26, the city was excited by the report that the inhabitants of several Christian villages near Eski-Zaghra being gathered in one place for mutual protection had been slaughtered by Circassians and Turks, only a small remnant escaping, and we saw waggon loads of these wounded peasants—men, women, and children—who were brought into the city. A few, including one old woman, escaped by hiding in a marsh where they were tortured nearly to death by leeches.

On the same day, Thursday, several Turks in the city were arrested and executed. On Friday, July 27, a large number were executed by the Bulgarian police, and on Saturday, July 28, the worst class of Bulgarians began to take it upon themselves to seize obnoxious Turks and despatch them with sword and musket at the border of the city. From what Mr. Marsh and myself saw and heard, we judge that perhaps 100 Turks may have been cut down during those three days. We know that the temporary Government tried to stop the excesses of Saturday; and on Sunday morning it was proclaimed in the churches that every one participating in the work would be severely punished, and it was ordered that all stolen property be delivered to the authorities. We heard of no more executions.

We do not believe that any Moslem woman or child was killed in the city by Bulgarians, though for several days Christian women and children were brought in wounded in a frightful manner. We heard of one Jewess being injured.

On Tuesday, July 31, Suleiman Pasha appeared before the city with a large force, while the Russians were fighting Raouf Pasha in the direction of Yeni-Zaghra. But a small part of the Russian force seems to have been sent back to aid the companies of the Bulgarian legion, the Bulgarian police, and the citizens, in checking Suleiman Pasha's advance. The city was easily captured, and shells were thrown over it among the crowd of Christians who were pouring out in flight on the road leading to Kezanlik. Mr. Marsh's house being exposed by reason of the firing, he came with his family to my house. As the troops entered the city I called in a Turkish neighbour, who with several others promised to do all in their power to protect us in case of need. This aid I expected, as for several days I had given them food, and once afforded them shelter in my cellar when they were anticipating an attack from the Christians. We know that in several instances Bulgarians gave comfort and shelter to their Turkish neighbours. As soon as the city was taken every Christian house was broken open; and from the frequent reports of muskets heard in our neighbourhood, and from the dead bodies which we saw, we judge that large numbers of Bulgarians were massacred in their houses. Our neighbours did all they could to protect my house, some remaining inside, some outside, and some going to the Kaïmakam for a guard.

Our chief trouble was with a Circassian soldier, who drew his sword on us and threatened death to all infidels of whatever nationality. After our paying him 8 liras which he demanded, the neighbours prevailed on him to leave the premises. A Turkish soldier was bought off by the payment of one lira.

Within half an hour the Kaïmakam, accompanied by Captain Fife, called at my gate and left a mounted soldier on guard. Afterwards we were furnished six more soldiers to protect us during the night. Before a guard could be stationed at the gate of Mr. Marsh's premises his house was broken open and pillaged. This was done by citizens and soldiers. Shortly after the capture of the city fire was raging in two of the Christian quarters, and by morning the richest Bulgarian quarter was in ashes.

About nine o'clock Wednesday morning, August 1, Emin Pasha sent us word that an order had been received from Suleiman Pasha that every one must leave the city immediately, as the Russians were near in force, and he should probably bombard the city. With a light carriage and one saddle-horse we immediately left the house with our families, and were soon out of the city in company with Emin Pasha. We supposed that we should proceed at once to the railway at Kara-Bounar, but an order came directing us to remain within the Turkish lines near the city. Here in the company of about 8,000 Turks and Jews we spent the day and night listening to the lamentations of the women, and watching the flames destroying the city. We do not know who is responsible for the destruction of the city, but it is certain that the fire could have been easily kept from the Turkish quarter, as there was no wind, and the houses were constructed of mud brick covered with tiles, and generally but one storey in height.

On Thursday, August 2, we left the city, no Christians being in our company save a few Bulgarian women disguised as Turks or Jewesses. We are specially grateful to Emin Pasha and other prominent Turks for the protection they afforded us on the journey. In our haste we came away with no food, and were obliged to subsist chiefly on raw wheat. Our Turkish neighbours also were scantily supplied, but they kindly gave us something occasionally for our children. We reached the railway station at Kara-Bounar Friday night. We there experienced great kindness from members of the Red Crescent Society, and also from Mr. Scarborough, the correspondent of the "Morning Post."

On Sunday we came to Adrianople by one of four large trains sent to convey us. In the last train there were about 3,000 Bulgarian women and children, who arrived that morning at Kara-Bounar under guard. About 4,000 more remained to be

brought on later. Of these 7,000 about one-twentieth were wounded, one small child having six bayonet-wounds in its body. The women assert that their husbands were murdered, and the fact that Suleiman Pasha has executed sixteen of his soldiers and flogged a large number for excesses committed in Eski-Zaghra is proof that great atrocities attended the re-capture of the city.

In my endeavour to present an impartial statement I ought to mention that the largest mosque in Eski-Zagha was searched for arms, the interior was completely demolished, and, according to the testimony of Turks, beautifully embellished copies of the Koran were torn and defiled with far.

Mr. Marsh desires to add his testimony to the general correctness of this brief narrative.

With gratitude for the interest you have taken in our welfare, and for the efforts of Messrs. Blunt and Fawcett to communicate with us while we were in Eski-Zaghra, I am, &c.

(Signed) L. BOND.

No. 293.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 934.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed, upon what may be considered trustworthy authority, that the Greek Minister here has received a despatch from the Greek Consul at Adrianople as to the occurrences at Eski-Zaghra.

The Consul had been instructed to report as to the treatment of the Greeks of that town on its occupation by the Ottoman troops.

He states that when the Circassians entered houses occupied by Greeks and Bulgarians they spared and protected the former, when given to understand that they were not Bulgarians, and provided them with money to proceed to Philippopoli.

This despatch will probably not be made public; but it is worth calling to your Lordship's notice, as affording evidence that the excesses committed by the Turkish irregulars are not directed against Christians in general, but only against those who are accused of rebellion and of committing atrocities upon the Mussulman population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 294.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 935.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Scio and Tchesmé, reporting movements of foreign ships of war.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 294.

Vice-Consul Anamissaki to Mr. Layard.

Tchesmé, le 7 Août, 1877.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous faire part, que le 4 courant a mouillé à la rade de Scio, provenant de Samos, la petite goëlette-à-vapeur Hellène "Alphonsa," avec quarante-deux hommes d'équipage, laquelle le matin du 6 courant s'était partie pour Psara et Métélin.

Le 5 courant avait mouillé aussi à la rade de Scio, provenant de Samos, l'aviso Italien "Messaggiere," et le lendemain s'était reparti pour Smyrne.

Le même jour, vers le coucher du soleil, avait mouillé aux eaux thermales de notre district, distantes trois-quarts d'heure de la ville, dans le Golf d'Erythée, une

frégate cuirassée Austro-Hongroise, laquelle s'est repartie le lendemain matin, sans pouvoir m'informer le nom du bâtiment en question.

Le 6 du courant mouillé à la rade de Scio, provenant de Smyrne, la frégate Américaine "Trenton," et le lendemain repartit inconnu pour quelle destination.

Aujourd'hui, vers le soir, je viens de m'informer qu'un bâtiment-de-guerre cuirassé a mouillé à la rade de nos eaux thermales, sans pouvoir parvenir apprendre la nationalité.

Pour la dite goëlette-à-vapeur Hellène "Aphroessa" on a dit qu'elle est venue à ces parages pour la poursuite des pirates, mais il paraît que c'est plutôt pour ranimer le sentiment national des Grecs de ces contrées.

On nous a informé que lorsque le dit bâtiment avait mouillé à Samos, une foule de la population de l'île était allée à bord, pour saluer le bâtiment et le pavillon, de façon que le commandant de ce bâtiment était forcé d'enlever l'échelle pour empêcher la foule pour cause que le bâtiment risquait s'enfoncer, en criant "Vive le pavillon Hellène!" "Vive la nation!" "Vive la guerre!" &c.

La même déclaration a été réitérée à terre, par la populace Samienne devant la maison Princière, tenant des pavillons Hellènes; par conséquent M. Docos, Consul Hellène de la dite île, bien faisant se trouva forcé d'engager le capitaine du dit bâtiment-de-guerre de partir de Samos, pour éviter les fausses explications de la part du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Daignez, &c.

(Signé) L. ANAMISSAKI.

No. 295.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 936.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Consul Blunt, reporting upon the execution of nine Bulgarians at Philippopoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 295.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, July 30, 1877.

Sir,

I HAD the honour yesterday to telegraph to Her Majesty's Embassy as follows:—

"In virtue of sentence pronounced by military tribunal now sitting nine Bulgarian peasants were hanged here this morning."

The following are the names of those individuals:—

Antonoglou Stoyon, of Matyin.
Melioglou Yowaw, ditto.
Andrioglou Stoyan, ditto.
Stoyanoglou Kolu, ditto.
Isotsoglou Christo, of Stroyowo.
Ghenoglou Athanase, ditto.
Slatoglou Angel, ditto.
Archandjoglou Ghenghi, ditto.
Angeloglou Christan, of Isalapitza.

These men were found guilty of having, on the 17th instant, the day of the occupation of Kyzanlik by the Russians, delivered a quantity of biscuits intended for the Turkish troops to the enemy, and of having subsequently appropriated goods belonging to Turkish peasants in the Mussulman villages occupied by the Russians, and rifles belonging to Turkish soldiers killed between Shipka and Kyzanlik.

They had been in company with some 120 other Christian and Mussulman peasants despatched from Philippopolis in charge of a convoy of provisions for the Turkish forces at Shipka; at a short distance from Kyzanlik they learnt that the Russians had already entered that town. The Mussulman and most of the Christian peasants accompanying the convoy then turned back; but twenty-eight of the

latter, taking advantage of the confusion caused by the news, separated from the others unperceived by the zaptiehs accompanying them, and pursued their way to Kyzanlik, where the contents of their carts were taken possession of by the Russians.

They remained at Kyzanlik two days, during which they committed the thefts laid to their charge, the Russians advising them not to return to Philippopolis lest they should incur punishment. Afterwards, however, it appeared that the Russians received intelligence of the panic prevailing amongst the Mussulman population of this town, and, unaware of the establishment of a court-martial here, they told the peasants that they might return to Philippopolis in safety. The unfortunate men were stopped by Turkish troops in a village about four hours from here, and the plundered arms were found in their carts. They made no attempt to deny their guilt. Saïvet Pasha, President of the Military Tribunal, deeming that the execution of nine of them would be a sufficient example, ordered the remaining nineteen to be released, and they were set at liberty the same day.

These executions have produced a tremendous effect on the Bulgarian community here, especially amongst the notables, who latterly have hardly been able to conceal even from the Turks their exultation at the approach of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. CALVERT.

No. 296.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 937.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

THE newspapers state that a grand public procession and religious ceremony have been celebrated at St. Petersburgh to exhibit the trophies taken from the Turks during the present campaign, with the object of exciting the religious zeal and ardour of the Russian people in the war waged against Turkey. These devices for inflaming the Christian passions of the Russians may be allowable and praiseworthy; but it may be asked what Christian public opinion would say if the Turks had recourse to the same measures to rouse the fanaticism of Mussulmans? The mere exhibition of a green flag in the court-yard of a mosque in Constantinople, and a pious prayer for the success of the Sultan's arms, have been denounced as an outrage upon humanity, and as a proof of the barbarous and fanatical spirit of the Turkish Government and people.

In the face of what Russia is doing, it is scarcely possible to preach moderation and forbearance to the Turks. The injustice with which they believe themselves, not without reason, to be treated by the Christian nations of Europe, adds to their feelings of exasperation, and tends, as much as anything else, to the character of extermination which this unrighteous and unnecessary war has assumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 297.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 22.)

(No. 938.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, reporting upon the landing of Suleiman Pasha's army at Dedeagatch, and the conduct of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 297.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, August* 11, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, the copy of a report dated the 8th instant from the British Vice-Consul at Dedeagatch, relative to the landing and the conduct at that port of Suleiman Pasha's corps d'armée, and to the state of public feeling in that district.

My foreign colleagues and the leading merchants here speak in the highest terms of praise and admiration of the remarkably orderly conduct and discipline of these troops during their passage through Adrianople, and of the enterprise and energy displayed by Suleiman Pasha in successfully concentrating his army in the Toundja Valley, in time to arrest the advance of the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 297.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Consul Blunt.

Sir, *Dedeagatch, August* 8, 1877.

THE principal incident during the last month has been the landing here of about 21,000 men, coming from Montenegro, under the command of Suleiman Pasha. These troops were conveyed here on board twenty-one steam ships of war, of which three were iron-clads. The first steamer cast anchor in our roads on the 19th, at about noon. The other steamers only began appearing the next day, at about the same hour, and continued following each other, the last two coming in on the morning of the 22nd ultimo.

All the lighters and porters of Dedeagatch had been requisitioned by Government for the landing of the troops and ammunition, and during the three days that the landing lasted, merchants were not allowed to load or unload their vessels. The disembarkment of so many troops took place very regularly and quickly, considering what few facilities this place offers, and the conduct of the men was such as to deserve much praise.

They ill-treated nobody, paid well for all they bought; in fact, I have not heard one single complaint against them.

This could hardly be expected, seeing that the poor fellows, after two years' fighting in Montenegro, were all of them in a sad state; their clothes in rags and most of them without shoes, but wearing worn-out sandals, besides being half famished.

It was very unfortunate that the provision dealers here had been led to believe that the soldiers would lay hands on everything they could get, without paying, and therefore had not laid in extra provisions as they would have done; so in a few hours all the bread, cheese, &c., to be had at the bakers and bakals was bought up by the first troops that landed, those coming after them finding nothing left. Many soldiers went from one house to another, offering money for a piece of bread, and refusing money if it was offered them in its stead.

There was certainly much negligence on the part of those who were to furnish provisions for the troops, the bread ordered not coming in proper time. After the troops left quantities of it came, and as it was not to be wasted the authorities here thought fit to hinder the bakers from making fresh bread, and obliged them to sell the bread intended for the troops, so for two or three days nothing but stale bread was to be had.

It is to be regretted that about 150 soldiers deserted, and are now prowling about in the environs.

Their presence in this neighbourhood causes great uneasiness to the inhabitants of Dedeagatch, as these fellows, pressed by want, may be induced to attack the town, which is defenceless, for the sake of plunder. It is also said that some Bashi-Bazouks have joined them, and that the famous Peteko has again made his appearance.

Information of this state of things has been communicated by the Consular Agents here to their respective Ambassadors. I have also written to his Excellency Mr. Layard about it.

Though there is certainly a feeling of ill-will entertained by the Christian population here towards the Turks, it is not, however, to such an extent as may be supposed, and that may be attributed to the conduct of the few Turks living here, who seem very willing to live on good terms with them. Our Mudir (sub-Governor) is more surrounded by Greeks than by Turks, and from what I have been able to judge, he is very conciliatory in his manner; and though far from showing the necessary capacity for the post he occupies, he does his best for the public good.

It is to be regretted that the Mudir's power does not extend far either in criminal or civil cases, which have all to be referred to the Kaimakam of Ferré, thereby causing much annoyance and loss of time to those who are obliged to have recourse to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) L. WILLSHIRE.

No. 298.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 943.) *Therapia, August 15, 1877.*

My Lord,

IN a previous despatch I mentioned a certain Hagi Dimitri, of Dranova, whom I stated to be one of the most active leaders in the outrages and massacres committed by the Bulgarians under Russian protection upon the Musulman population.

Consul Blunt writes to me about this man—"With regard to the miscreant Hagi Dimitri, of Dranova, Mr. E. Calvert informs me that when visiting the north Balkan districts in January last, Mr. Elieff, a Bulgarian missionary preacher (Protestant) from Rustchuk, who accompanied him, cited that Tchorlugo as an instance of the unfitness of the present generation of the Bulgarian people for self-government.

"Hagi Dimitri, Mr. Elieff said, amassed his wealth through exorbitant usury and the most grinding oppression of his own countrymen, no less than of the Turkish peasantry.

"Mr. Calvert abstained from mentioning this fact in his statement of the atrocities at Kayajik, near Drenova, lest it would be supposed that he was biassed by that information.

"It may be that the man was partly impelled to take a leading part in the atrocities by the fear of being himself the victim of the Bulgarians."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 299.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 356) *Therapia, August 21, 1877, 6·15 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

PORTE informs me that the village of Shipka has been taken by the Circassian irregulars, where they found great quantities of ammunition. The enemy was pursued by them up to a certain point of the Pass of Shipka, which is now clear of Russians.

No. 300.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 357.) *Therapia, August 21, 1877, 7·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs following:—

"Turkish and Jewish fugitives from Kyzanlik state that Jews there were horribly ill-treated by Bulgarians under Cossack protection. Fourteen were massacred; thirteen of the bodies are buried in the courtyard of Synagogue; one was eaten by dogs. Among the number was a girl 15 years of age, named Dudo Beraha, who was outraged by the Bulgarians, and then cut down. Forty-three of the Jews, some of them wounded, are among the fugitives recently saved by Circassians, and 337 with the

Bulgarians of Kyzanlik, who have taken refuge in Shipka Pass. The above massacres took place latterly, after main body of Russian troops had quitted town, leaving there detachment of Cossacks and Bulgarian police."

No. 301.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(No. 359.) *Therapia, August 22, 1877, 9 A.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL GREEN telegraphs following, dated Scutari, yesterday:—

"Governor-General informs me that for the last few days five or six vessels have been manœuvring on this coast, between Durazzo and Antivari, in a most suspicious manner. When an attempt was made at Antivari to board one of them, the boat was ordered off. The vessels are under canvas, and one was seen to fly the Greek flag."

No. 302.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 22.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 22, 1877, noon.*

OFFICERS have been appointed to different commands in Servia. Prince Milan has declined the services of General Fadeieff. The former Russian Consul at Constantinople, who is now attached to the Grand Duke Nicholas, has been here on a secret mission from Russia, and leaves to-night.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 303.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 23.*)

(No. 52. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August 7, 1877.*

IN my last despatch I made the statement that the Cretans would prefer almost any improved form of Government for their island to the alternative of annexation to Greece.

That this disposition of the islanders is well known to the Greek Government cannot be doubted, and I have long suspected that the stringent instructions given by that Government to its Consul here to do all in his power to prevent the outbreak of an insurrection were prompted in no little degree by that knowledge. My suspicions have been confirmed by the imprudent avowal made by my Greek colleague to an intimate acquaintance of mine, that his Government would not regret that Crete should remain some time longer under Ottoman rule, in the hope that a few years hence the estranged affections of the islanders might revert to their former channel. Again, when on a late occasion a local chief was reproaching the Consul with thwarting the insurrectionary movement of his countrymen, he replied that if the Chief would adopt the programme of annexation to Greece, he would at once withdraw his opposition. Both these facts I have on the best authority, and they reveal a policy on the part of the Hellenic Government which can excite no surprize.

It is worthy of remark that the coldness of feeling towards Greece is mainly traceable to the influence of the many Cretans who have resided in the Greek capital. Even those who tarry but a few months there return the avowed opponents of annexation. I may be permitted to cite the case of the Hegoumenos of a large Cretan convent who went over to Athens about a year ago a strong partizan of Panhellenism. He now writes to a friend of his in these plain terms: "If you hear anyone advocate the scheme of union with Greece, give him a slap in the face."

This coldness of a kindred people towards the neighbouring Kingdom is due to many causes, the principal, perhaps, being the lack of encouragement which they have received from Greece during the late period of agitation, and the conviction that she does not contain the elements for forming a great and flourishing State, or of aiding in the race of prosperity a poverty-stricken country like Crete; while the bitter

experience gained by past insurrections has sufficed to show that attempts to be joined to Greece have always ended in disaster. They are quite aware, moreover, that the Ionian Islands have lost rather than gained by their change of masters, and that the flourishing Ionian colony once established there has disappeared.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 304.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 53. Political.)
Canea, Crete, August 8, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, touching propositions made by certain Cretans to the British Consular Agents at Rethymo regarding the attainment of an improved system of Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Consul Sandwith to Mr. Layard.

Canea, Crete, August 8, 1877

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that M. Trifilli, British Consular Agent at Rethymo, writes to me to say that several leading men from the districts of Rethymo, Sphakia, and Milopotamo, called upon him, and stated that their countrymen were not desirous of union with Greece, but would be satisfied if the demands put forth by the last two General Assemblies were complied with, or if their country could be formed into a Principality under the sovereignty of the Sultan. They added that in thus making known to him the wishes of the Christians, their object was to inquire whether the British Government would give them its moral support in obtaining one or the other of these results.

Mr. Trifilli replied that he could not undertake to answer their question, but would refer it to me.

Having already become aware from other sources that either of the above objects would satisfy the more moderate among the Cretans, I conceive it my duty to bring the subject before your Excellency, and I have instructed Mr. Trifilli to abstain from discussing with these persons any plan for the future government of their country.

I beg leave to add, however, that though in the present mood of the Cretans schemes such as the above would satisfy them, it is by no means certain that in the event of Turkey being overwhelmed by her enemies, they would not aim at more radical changes still.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 305.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 54. Political.)
Canea, Crete, August 11, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the meeting of Christians (stated in my despatch No. 51 as expected to take place on the 5th instant) began to gather on that day at a village called Vafes, in Apokorona, and the following day about 100 had come together, who had grown on the third day to double that number. By the fourth day this multitude had almost melted away without anything having transpired to show that any important step had been taken by the promoters of the gathering. The local Government was naturally jubilant at this result, and every lover of peace rejoiced that this organized attempt to disturb the public tranquillity had apparently failed.

Several causes seem to have conspired to mar the plans of the promoters of the meeting. The principal one was due to the dissidence of opinion prevailing among the Chiefs as to the opportuneness of the moment for making the demonstration, many thinking it better to wait till their brethren in Epirus and Thessaly had taken the initiative. A most influential Chief, moreover, named Gogones, who had all along encouraged the movement, suddenly withdrew his support at the last moment, being influenced thereto, it is supposed, by the Greek Consul, and his conduct will perhaps forfeit him the leadership which had been commonly assigned him in a future insurrection. The peasants when the meeting began to assemble showed unmistakeable signs of disapproval at their village being selected as the trysting-place, as it had been twice destroyed in previous insurrections in consequence of such gatherings, and so the meeting adjourned to a camping-ground higher up, called Klima.

The Mutessarif of Sphakia, Sartinski Pasha, who reported that the meeting was quite dissolved, seems to have taken too sanguine a view of the situation. Since yesterday it has begun to be known that the more prominent leaders of the movement had only retired to a spot still up the mountain, called Pyroboli, and had there formed themselves into a Standing Committee, having a petition already drawn up, calling on the Porte to grant the Cretans the demands formulated in the General Assembly of 1876, and reiterated in this year's Session. The petition will be ready for signature on the 13th instant, and a constant stream of Deputies is again flowing in from the surrounding districts, who are exhorted by the Committee to do nothing to disturb the public tranquillity. This method of proceeding is quite in accordance with Cretan precedent, and it is satisfactory to learn that no immediate breach of the peace is contemplated.

The agitation reported in my despatch No. 51 as prevailing in the district of Selino has fortunately subsided, and Sunih Pasha deserves great credit for the prompt steps he took to put a stop to it. His Excellency compelled the Seliniotes who had already arrived here to return to their homes without delay, and he himself went round to that corner of the island in a steamer, taking a company of soldiers with him. His Excellency returned to-day, and professes to have succeeded in restoring tranquillity to that region, where perhaps there was really less cause for alarm than I had been led to believe.

I beg to state, in conclusion, that I cast doubts on the truth of the information given to the Vali by the Ottoman Minister in Athens as to the landing in Crete of 8,000 guns, mentioned in my despatch above referred to. Photiades Bey may have been misinformed by his spies, or, what is more likely, Sunih Pasha may have wished to find out whether the Cretan Chief to whom he imparted the pretended intelligence was aware of any landing of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 306.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 253. Political.)
Alexandria, August 13, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 247 of the 9th instant, reporting that the Khedive had informed me that he was mobilizing a considerable force to send to Turkey in case of need, I have now the honour to state that all the Egyptian transports capable of conveying troops are being collected, even from the other side of the canal, at Alexandria, for use at the shortest notice.

Strong pressure must, indeed, have been put upon the Khedive to induce him, against his better judgment, to contemplate sacrifices which must entail a ruinous drain upon the country, and which he may not improbably find incompatible with the maintenance of his financial engagements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 307.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 103.) *Athens, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

IT was stated in one of the Greek newspapers last week that a steamer of the Austrian Lloyd Company had brought to the Piræus 12,000 Chassepot rifles and 2,000,000 cartridges, for M. Leonidas Bulgaris, whose name has been mentioned in several of my despatches as an agitator in the interests of Russia, and that he had presented the whole as a patriotic gift to the "Committee of National Defence."

I am informed that the above arms and ammunition were purchased by the subscriptions of the Greek residents at Odessa and at Moscow, and that the Hellenic Government have taken them under their charge.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

No. 308.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 107 Confidential.) *Athens, August* 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a private letter which I received this morning from Mr. Consul Wood, relative to the arrival of Greek volunteers at Patras from Egypt, for service in the Greek army, and to the damage done to the currant crop by the recent rainy and stormy weather.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. STUART.

Inclosure in No. 308.

Consul Wood to Mr. Stuart.

(Private.) *Patras, August* 14, 1877.

My dear Mr. Stuart,

I WRITE a line to mention that 96 Greek volunteers arrived this morning from Alexandria by the British steamer "Magdala," and the master reports that about 300 more volunteers are coming by the British steamer "Macedonia," belonging to Mr. Papayanni, a Greek merchant from Liverpool. I am told that 50 volunteers have also landed in Corfu from the Austrian steamer from Alexandria. Our reserve troops exercise daily, and seem to make good progress. They are very badly provided with clothes.

I am told that a considerable number of the reserve are going to Santa Maura, to be near the frontiers. Her Majesty's ship "Wizard" arrived here on 6th August. Many merchant steamers are in port, and shipment of currants commences to-morrow. From 10,000 to 15,000 tons have been lost on account of the rainy and stormy weather which continued up to the 12th instant.

There was a report in circulation that 10,000*l.* had been subscribed at Patras for "national purposes," but I cannot find out that there is any truth in it. People, however, are willing to subscribe generously.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS WOOD.

No. 309.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 23.)

(No. 360.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1877, 11·30 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL BLUNT telegraphs to-day as follows:—

"Suleiman Pasha telegraphs 20th instant, from Kyzanlik, that on line of march from Forditch to Kyzanlik innumerable corpses of Mussulmans, men, women, and children, massacred by Cossacks and Bulgarians, were discovered everywhere by his troops, and seen by Military Attachés with the Staff and other foreigners.

"At Saghanly only one girl of seven years has survived. At Ketchideresi, near Kyzanlik, a few women and children who escaped announced that the seventy men and many women who had survived the massacre there were all put to death the night before, on approach of Turkish troops. At Bayghanly the genitals of the murdered men were placed on corpses of the women, with their murdered infants beside them."

No. 310.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 457. Secret.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 887, Secret, of the 2nd instant, respecting the present disposition of the Sultan as regards peace, and stating that you had given His Majesty to understand that Her Majesty's Government were not disposed to take the initiative in making any proposals for the termination of the war, but that, should a favourable opportunity offer for opening negotiations for peace, His Majesty may rely upon their friendly offices to obtain for him the most favourable conditions that could be expected; and I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 311.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 458. Secret.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 888, Secret, of the 3rd instant, on the subject of the hostile attitude of Greece towards Turkey, and acquainting me with your refusal to support a representation of M. Condouriotis to the Porte on the subject of the stoppage of Greek newspapers and the opening of letters sent to Greeks, through the post, in Crete; and I have to inform your Excellency that your proceedings in this matter are approved.

I am, &c.

(Signed) DERBY.

No. 312.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(No. 44.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1877.

Sir,

IT appears probable, from your telegram of the 18th instant, and from previous communications received from you and from other quarters, that the Servian Government is seriously preparing to declare war against Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government would view with much concern a renewal of the hostilities between Servia and the Porte. It was, in a great degree, owing to their endeavours that an armistice was accorded to Servia which saved her from the consequences of a crushing defeat. They gave their earnest support to the negotiations which led to the signature of the Protocol of the 1st of March last, and secured to Servia the enjoyment of peace; and they hold that an unprovoked violation of the engagements then entered into by Servia would be a breach of faith, not only towards the Porte, but towards England, and would render it impossible for the Government of the Queen to support the claims of Servia in any discussions which may take place at the end of the present war.

You will speak to the Servian Government in the sense of this despatch, and will strongly urge them not to commit any act of aggression against Turkey.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 313.

The Earl of Derby to Consul-General White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, August* 23, 1877, 3·15 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram of the 18th instant, from which it appears that the Servian Government is seriously preparing to declare war against Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government would view with much concern a renewal of the hostilities between Servia and the Porte. It was, in a great degree, owing to their endeavours that an armistice was accorded to Servia, which saved her from the consequences of a crushing defeat. They gave their earnest support to the negotiations which led to the signature of the Protocol of the 1st of March last, and secured to Servia the enjoyment of peace; and they hold that an unprovoked violation of the engagements then entered into by Servia would be a breach of faith, not only towards the Porte, but towards England, and would render it impossible for the Government of the Queen to support the claims of Servia in any discussions which may take place at the end of the present war.

You will speak to the Servian Government in the sense of this telegram, and will strongly urge them not to commit any act of aggression against Turkey.

No. 314.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 932.) *Therapia, August* 15, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a telegram received from Suleiman Pasha by the Governor-General of Adrianople, and by the latter communicated to Mr. Consul Blunt, relative to the barbarities said to have been committed by the Russians and Bulgarians at Kyzanlik.

This telegram forms the subject of a fresh Circular addressed by the Porte to its Representatives abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 314.

Suleiman Pasha to the Governor-General of Adrianople.

(Traduction.) *Le* 28 *Juillet*, 1877.
(Télégraphique.)

LES trois bataillons de Zeibecks que j'avais envoyés aux environs de Kizanlik en éclaireur et en vue de délivrer les habitants Musulmans, sous le commandement de mon aide-de-camp, Djebar Effendi, et en compagnie de Mustapha Bey, notable de Kizanlik, vient de retourner.

D'après le rapport de ces derniers le lendemain du jour de la prise de Kizanlik, par les Russes, ceux-ci, après avoir ramassé les armes de la population Musulmane, les Cosacks et les Boulgares d'entr'eux, ont pillé les effets de la population Musulmane, jusqu'aux chemises des femmes, durant trois jours consécutifs. En outre s'il y avait encore chez eux quelque peu de numéraire, ils l'ont enlevé également en prenant les hommes, les couchant par terre, comme s'ils allaient égorger des moutons devant les yeux de leurs femmes, et leur faisant subir toute espèce de tourment en vue de les effrayer. Tous ceux qui ont persisté à dire qu'ils n'avaient pas d'argent, soit mâle ou fémelles, ont été tués dans leurs maisons. Ils ont arrêté le Kaïmakam de Kizanlik et après lui avoir arraché les dents et l'avoir promené pendant trois jours dans les rues, ils l'ont jeté dans la prison des criminels et plus tard ils l'ont expédié à Chipka. Après quelques jours, le Général ayant réuni les habitants Musulmans, leur a dit que

l'Empereur a été très content du zèle déployé par eux en vue de pourvoir aux besoins de l'armée Russe, que dorénavant ils pouvaient ouvrir leurs magasins et leurs boutiques, en toute sureté, et s'occuper de leurs affaires, et qu'à l'avenir ils ont à payer à la Russie le solde des dîmes et des taxes qu'ils doivent au Gouvernement Ottoman. A la suite de leur défaite à Eski-Zagra, les Russes et les Bulgares ont, le même jour, abandonné aussi Kezanlik en se retirant à Shipka; mais ils retournèrent le lendemain et ils se mirent à tuer tous les Musulmans qu'ils rencontraient dans les rues, et à violer les femmes. En dehors des Musulmans qui étaient tués dans les maisons avec des balles de fusils on en tuait tous les jours aussi une trentaine dans les rues. Pendant la prise de Kezanlik les habitants des villages de Méphlis, de Elfchanli, Yanfili, Kischla, Sofiler, Telanaktchi, Cozlidjé, Shoukrali, Omurlov, Tchorlov, Elyova, Ketchidéré, Haskeuy et d'autres s'étaient enfuis en partie, mais les deux-tiers qui sont restés ont subi un massacre général et après le pillage de leurs effets leurs villages ont été livrés au feu.

Parmi les femmes Musulmanes, celles qui étaient jeunes furent habillées à la franque et amenées dans les Balkans par les Bulgars et les Russes.

Les rapporteurs susmentionnés en s'avançant avec leur détachement ramassaient sur leur route tous les Musulmans qui pouvaient porter des armes et lorsque graduellement ils sont arrivés à Kezanlik, la population Musulmane commença à crier au secours en disant que les maudits Bulgars les égorgeaient comme des moutons et que si le détachement n'arrivait pas encore deux heures les Cosacks et les Bulgars les auraient tous passé au fil de l'épée. Ils ajoutèrent qu'ils voulaient émigrer et, sous les auspices de la petite force qui arrivait à leur secours, tous les habitants Musulmans (à l'exception de 1,500 environ dont les maisons se trouvaient à proximité du quartier Bulgar et qui étaient ainsi retenus par force) réunis à ceux des villages environants et formant un total de 10,500 personnes, sont sortis pour partir; mais dans ce moment là une foule de fantassins Bulgars et de cavaliers Cosacks ont attaqué les émigrants en faisant pleuvoir sur eux la mitraille et tâchant de les empêcher de partir. Le petit détachement susmentionné a fait tout ce qu'il a pu pour sauver les émigrants des mains de l'ennemi. Cependant 500 d'entre eux ayant été environnés par les Cosacks et les Bulgars ont été forcés de rébrousser chemin, et le détachement, vu sa faiblesse en proportion du nombre des ennemis, n'a pas pu les délivrer, mais il a pu très bien sauver les autres 10,000 qu'il a conduit dans un état, il est vrai, de détresse extrême, mais sains et saufs, à Karabounar, où on a pourvu à leurs besoins immédiats et en faisant venir des vagons on s'est mit à les expédier à Andrinople. Ces habitants, après qu'ils ont été dépouillés de leurs effets, on leur a pris les habits et les chemises neufs qu'ils portaient et on leur a laissé des haillons que ces malheureux ont dû endosser, de sorte que en dehors des hommes les femmes Musulmanes même se trouvent actuellement dans un état de nudité révoltante.

La conduite de ce petit détachement, qui a réussi malgré l'exiguité de leur nombre, de ramener en sûreté d'une si grande distance une nombreuse population Musulmane, est digne de tout éloge et nous devons en rendre grâce au Tout Puissant. J'ai l'honneur de faire part aussi qu'aujourd'hui j'ai envoyé à Kizanlik un bataillon et demi de troupes régulières avec quelques cavaliers Circassiens, afin de ramener ce qui reste encore vivant des habitants Musulmans. Il m'a été rapporté qu'on a constaté l'existence dans l'armée Russe de volontaires Serbes et Prussiens, que le Grand Duc Nicholas se trouvait en effet a Eski-Zagra, et que lors de leur défaite il s'est échappé à grande peine à Kizanlik, où il s'était mis à prendre son repas préparé pour lui, mais que dans l'intervalle un de ses aides de camp étant venu lui dire quelque chose à l'oreille renonça à son repas et à son repos, il s'est mis dans une voiture fermée et, entouré d'une quarantaine de Cosacks, se dirigea vers Chipka. Ceci m'a été rapporté hier comme certain et positif.

No. 315.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 945.) *Therapia, August* 16, 1877.

My Lord,

I MADE very strong representations to the Porte with respect to the conduct of Aly Bey, the Mutessarif of Varna, and of the Yuz Bashi, Mehemet Agha, in the affair of Kivarna, of which a full account was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 828 and 871 of the 24th and 31st ultimo. I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that Aly Bey has been dismissed from his post and has been

called to Constantinople, and that Mehemet Agha has been arrested and is now in prison in the city. It is to be hoped that he will receive the punishment he deserves, for he appears to have been the principal cause of the lamentable loss of life and destruction of property at Kavarna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 316.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 947.) *Therapia, August 16, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt giving particulars respecting the Bulgarian wounded who have been brought in to Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 316.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 13, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copies of two despatches from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, with their inclosures, containing the information which I instructed him to obtain relative to the number of Bulgarian wounded who have been brought here, and the circumstances under which they received their wounds.

These unfortunate people have received from the Turkish authorities here the same attention (although that is necessarily far short of what they desire) as has been given to the wounded Mahommedan women and children, of which my despatch to your Excellency of the 6th instant contained a list (Inclosure 8.) I may here mention that since the date of that despatch many more of these last have continued to arrive at Adrianople. Nine Mahommedan women were brought in yesterday by train from Karabounar, all badly wounded, and three of them not expected to live.

I should add that the Adrianople British Committee for the Relief of Fugitives from the seat of war have taken charge for the present of many of the above Mahommedan and Christian wounded, as well as of several hundred unwounded but destitute refugees of those and the Jewish communities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 316.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 6, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG leave to acquaint you that I have been informed to-day by the Correspondent of the "Times," as well as by the Correspondent of the "Morning Post," that some 4,000 Bulgarian fugitives, women and children, would arrive by train to-day from Eski-Zaghra and its neighbourhood, of whom 400 to 500 were wounded by the irregular troops.

Among the wounded they mentioned an infant having five bayonet thrusts, a Jewish girl said to have been ravished eighteen times by Cossacks and now an idiot, a Bulgarian woman ripped up, and that most of them were dying of want and starvation.

I have not had an opportunity of visiting these people; I therefore cannot say how far these statements are true.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Minute.

Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis will visit the wounded and find out number and circumstances, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 316.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 7, 1877.

Sir,

SINCE writing you yesterday and receiving your instructions to visit the wounded Bulgarian women and children, and report to you as to their number, and the circumstances under which they received their hurts, I have the honour to state that while carrying out that mission, and on my way to Marash, a village in the neighbourhood of Adrianople, where they had been lodged on their first arrival from Eski-Zaghra, I met three waggons containing some thirty women and children, all, with one or two exceptions, suffering more or less from gun-shot wounds, received according to their showings during the confused fight that ensued on the Turkish regular and irregular troops retaking Eski-Zaghra.

Inclosure No. 1 is a list of the women and children so wounded, and the nature of their injuries.

Learning from the Turkish officers in charge of these people that there were other wounded women and children at Kiritch Hané, a Bulgarian quarter of this town, I drove to that locality.

There I found scattered and lying about in all directions on the bare ground outside an old farmhouse, some forty women and children suffering from gunshot and other wounds, and in the greatest possible misery from want and destitution, and I much fear that unless relief is speedily afforded many must die of starvation and sickness. Indeed, one or two very old people appeared to be already fast sinking, being unable to move or answer questions.

Inclosure No. 2 is a list of the sufferers at Kiritch Hané, also wounded during the confused fight in the retaking of Eski-Zaghra.

To the credit of the Turks be it said, that all these women and children were collected and forwarded to Adrianople by the authorities, where they are being cared for to the best of their ability and means. The male members of these Bulgarian families are said by their relatives to have been killed. Doubtless many fell while fighting on the Russian side, but, from further inquiries, I am inclined to believe the greater part abandoned their families and made their escape with the enemy, so that they may be put down as missing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 4 in No. 316.

List of Wounded Bulgarian Women and Children at Kiritch Hané.

1. A GIRL, named Rada, age 15 years, gun-shot wound in right foot.
2. A girl, named Tchorna, age 16 years, gun-shot in left thigh.
3. A girl, named Peno, knife-wound in head.
4. A woman, named Gospodina, age 103, beaten with butt-end of musket.
5. A woman, named Malion, age 30, sword-cut on her back.
6. A woman, named Anno, age 35, gun-shot wound in her loins.
7. A girl, named Yano, age 12 years, gun-shot wound in left ear.
8. A woman, named Peno, age 70, beaten with butt-end of musket.
9. A girl, named Zoultcha, age 9 years, gun-shot wound in her right hand.
10. A girl, named Kalitina, age 18 years, gun-shot wound in her left breast.
11. A girl, named Pedo, age 18 years, knife-wound on head, ear, and face.
12. A girl, named Malo, age 20 years, gun-shot wounds in cheek and groins.
13. A woman, named Islavo, age 60, knife-wound in her head.
14. A woman, named Theodora, age 50 years, gun-shot wound in her left arm.
15. A girl, named Jano, age 20 years, gun-shot wound in left foot.

16. A woman, named Rano, age 40, knife-wound in groins.
17. A woman, named Duio, age 30, gun-shot wound in her left foot.
18. A woman, named Stoyo, age 25, beaten with the butt-end of muskets, very severely.
19. A girl, named Katerina, age 12 years, gun-shot wound in her groins.
20. A girl, named Nitcha, age 10 years, gun-shot wound in both hands.
21. A woman, named Nedo, age 50, gun-shot wound in left hand.
22. A woman, named Djeno, age 30 years, gun-shot wound in her left breast, and in her groins.
23. A girl, named Nicko, age 10 years, gun-shot wound in right eye.
24. A woman, named Konyo, age 30, gun-shot wound in her groins.
25. A girl, named Galino, age 15 years, gun-shot wound in her groins.
26. A woman, named Karanocha, age 70, gun-shot wound in her right thigh.
27. A woman, named Donné, age 50, beaten severely with butt-end of musket.
28. A woman, named Peno, age 30, gun-shot wound in her left leg.
29. A woman, named Iovantcha, age 30, gun-shot wound in groins.
30. A woman, named Grondo, age 30, gun-shot wound in right knee.
31. A woman, named Gelesko, age 50, severely beaten with butt-end of musket.
32. A woman, named Iona, age 60, left arm cut off, and gun-shot wound in her right foot.
33. A woman, named Maro, age 25, gun-shot wound in left hand.
34. A woman, named Denio, age 35, burnt on both cheeks.
35. A girl, named Gelo, age 20, left foot and both hands burnt.
36. A woman, named Gané, age 25, gun-shot wound in left hand and right foot.
37. A woman, named Peno, age 60, gun-shot wounds in right hand and right foot.
38. A girl, named Milke, age 18 years, gun-shot wound in left foot and groins.
39. A woman, named Mino, age 40, severely beaten with the butt-end of muskets.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, August 7, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 316.

List of Wounded Bulgarian Women and Children in Wagons coming from Marash.

1. Woman named Gano, age 30 years, wife of Prodan, of the village of Meritchler, in the district of Tchirpan. Wounded in right groin with two shots. Husband missing.

2. A girl named Peno, age 6 years, daughter of Stoiko, in the same village. Knife-wound in left cheek. Father killed.

3. Woman named Mito, age 60 years, wife of Islave, of the same village. Gun-shot wound in her right shoulder. Her husband was killed.

4. A boy named Aistonil, son of Rado, age 10 years, of the same village. Gun-shot wound in left hand. His father was killed.

5. Woman named Dolo, age 60 years, of the same village. Knife-wound on left side of neck. Her two sons, Theodore and Islave, were killed.

6. A girl named Mino, age 3 years, daughter of Yecho, of the village of Dogandja, in the district of Eski-Zaghra. Wounded in her right shoulder by a musket-ball. Father killed.

7. A boy named Milo, age 6 years, son of Petko, of the village of Meritchler, in the district of Tchirpan. Gun-shot wound in left shoulder. Father killed.

8. A girl named Youvanki, age 15 years, of the village of Tchourluk, in the district of Eski-Zaghra. Gun-shot wounds in both legs and feet.

9. A woman named Theodora, age 30 years, wife of Zecho, of the village of Meritchler, in the district of Tchirpan. Gun-shot wound in her left thigh. Her husband was killed.

10. A girl named Jano, age 10 years, of the village of Koukardja, in the district of Tchirpan. Gun-shot wound in right hand. Both father and mother was killed.

11. A girl named Geko, age 7 years, daughter of Jeno, of the village of Iskenderli, in the district of Eski-Zaghra. Gun-shot wound in left eye. Her father was killed.

12. A girl named Istoiké, age 6 years, of the same village. Gun-shot wounds in both feet.

13. A woman named Mino, age 20 years, wife of Rousso, in the village of Meritchler, in the district of Tchirpan. Burnt on her right cheek and two hands through falling into fire. Her husband was killed.

14. A girl named Noumki, age 23 years, of Eski-Zaghra, daughter of Kala-Youvan. Gun-shot wound back of head.

15. A boy named Islav, age 12 years, son of Marco, of same place. Wounded by blow on head with stick.

16. A woman named Islavo, age 60 years, of the village of Gourbet, in the district of Eski-Zaghra. Gun-shot wound in right groin.

17. A girl named Peno, age 15 years, of Kokoudja, in the district of Tchirpan. Gun-shot wound in left leg.

18. A girl named Pano, age 20 years, of the village of Meritchler, in the district of Tchirpan, daughter of Yanko. Knife wound on her breast. Her father was killed.

19. A boy named Yordan, age 4 years, of the same place. Gun-shot wound on right side of head and right hand. His father, Rousso, and mother, Ziko, were both killed.

20. A girl named Staïki, age 13 years, daughter of Gospodino, of the same place. Gun-shot wound in right hand. Her father and mother were both killed.

21. A woman named Rado, age 25 years, daughter of Radni, and wife of Houptcho of Koza, in the district of Tchirpan. Gun-shot wound in her right thigh. Both her husband and father were killed.

22. A girl named Stoïka, age 13 years, daughter of Geko of Dogandja, in the district of Eski-Zaghra. Gun-shot wound in her left hand. Her father was killed.

23. A woman named Gheko, age 25 years, of the same place. Gun-shot wound in her right thigh.

24. A motherless child about 3 months old.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Adrianople, August 7, 1877.

No. 317.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 948.)

Therapia, August 17, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Naib, Raghib Effendi, Acting Governor of Kyzanlik at the time of the occupation of the town by the Russians, called upon me yesterday, having just arrived in Constantinople. He brought me a strong letter of recommendation from Mr. Consul Blunt. The Effendi made a statement to me as to what had occurred at Kyzanlik. The manner in which it was given impressed me with its truthfulness. I requested Mr. Sandison, who was present, to furnish me with a note of it, which he has done. I have the honour to inclose it.

Raghib Effendi informs me that he is convinced that if Mr. Blunt had not quitted Kyzanlik before the Russians entered the place his life would have been in imminent danger, as the Russians and Bulgarians were greatly incensed against him on account of his reports to me of the atrocities they had committed before reaching the town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 317.

Statement of the Naib, Raghib Effendi, Acting Governor of Kyzanlik, during its occupation by the Russians.

THE town, consisting of a mixed population, 15,000 Mussulmans, 16,000 Bulgarians, and 300 Jews, was entered by an armed force of 13,000 men, composed of Russians, Bulgarians, Servians, &c., and about 100 Cossacks, who butchered nearly 300 persons belonging to the male Mussulman population after submitting them to all the refinements of cruelty and torture. Amongst the victims were twenty women and two children, one of the former in vain appealed to the mercy and compassion of the invaders to save her child, which was killed and herself dispatched also shortly after. The act was perpetrated by Bulgarians in the presence of a Cossack.

The whole town was then given up to plunder and pillage, in which the Cossacks took a prominent part.

The women were at first spared, but on the eighteenth day of the occupation of the town ten women were ravished by the Bulgarians, some of them under the most shocking circumstances of indecency.

Soon after the occupation Raghib Effendi was conducted as a hostage for the good behaviour of the Mussulman population to the head-quarters (two miles from the town) of the principal Russian officer in command, and there plundered in his presence of his watch and seal by the guard who had charge of him.

On his return to Kyzanlik two days later, finding his house and family plundered of everything they possessed, he appealed for redress to the Russian officer in command, who thereupon attached to his person a Cossack for his future protection; but this only tended to increase the danger of his situation, as the Cossack in question kept on threatening him with instant death if he did not provide him with wine and women.

On the Russians retiring from Kyzanlik 200 Zeibeks, who had been sent on by Suleiman Pasha, reached the outskirks of the town and applied for further orders to Raghib Effendi, who directed them to proceed to Eshikli and remain there for the present. These Zeibeks had it appears gone there before and taken the Bulgarian population of that village under their special protection. Owing, however, to a mistake on the part of the people entrusted with Raghib Effendi's message to the Zeibeks to the effect that they should not for the present come into Kyzanlik, they did enter the town, and at once took measures for facilitating the evacuation of the place by the Mussulman population, half of which headed by Raghib Effendi set out accordingly for Eshikli, which was reached in safety. On hearing this the Russians returned to Kyzanlik and prevented the remaining Mussulman population from escaping also to Eshikli, which the Russians thought was protected by a large Turkish force.

When the Russians were within a short distance of Kyzanlik the Zeibeks had naturally to retire, which they immediately did, without having had either the time or opportunity of retaliating upon the Bulgarian population, which had entirely disappeared on the former entering the town, which was not damaged by them in any way either by fire or otherwise. What may have happened to it since, however, Raghib Effendi cannot say, nor has he any information as to the fate of the population which had no time to escape when the Russians re-entered Kyzanlik.

As regards the fate of the villages and Mussulman population in the neighbourhood of Kyzanlik, he describes two villages, viz., Shekereli and Husskeni, as having been given up to fire and pillage. Out of a population of 1,000 souls, including men, women and children, seven people only managed to escape, the remainder having been massacred without regard to age or sex, excepting the young women, all of whom were carried off by the Cossacks and Bulgarians towards the Shipka Pass.

The Mudir of Kyzanlik, who had taken part in an action against the Russians, having been taken prisoner, was brought by them to Kyzanlik, and thence removed to Shipka. A few days later he was brought back by the Russians to Kyzanlik, stretched on a cart, with his jaw broken, and his face swollen up. The Cossacks paraded him in this state through the town, beating him with their whips over the face and body all the time.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

August 17, 1877.

No. 318.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 949.) *Therapia, August* 17, 1877.

My Lord,

MR. YOUNG, the Representative in Turkey of the Red Cross Association, who is just arrived from the head-quarters of Suleiman Pasha's army, fully confirms the accounts that have reached me, from so many independent sources, of the carnage, misery, and devastation, caused by the war.

He described to me the rich districts to the north of Adrianople which he visited, as laid completely waste, scarcely a village remaining unburnt, the inhabitants massacred or in flight, the crops, which this year have been unusually fine, in great part destroyed, and the cattle gone.

Adrianople and other towns, he says, are full of fugitives, chiefly Turkish and Bulgarian women and children. In one spot, huddled together in the open country, he found about 2,000 Mahommedan women and children, without shelter, with scarcely any food, and some without even clothing—a fact which will prove beyond anything else, to those who know Mussulman feeling on this point, the utter destitution and misery of these poor creatures. Many of them are wounded, and most of them have lost their husbands and fathers.

Mr. Young speaks in the highest terms of the Turkish authorities and population, who are doing all in their power to help the victims of this cruel war, whether they be Mussulmans or Christians; but their means of doing so are small, and must be soon exhausted. The cold weather is coming on, and the suffering and loss of life will ere long be dreadful.

In the front and wake of the Turkish army are the Circassians, who wantonly burn and destroy every village that may have been left standing after the Russian retreat.

In many cases the Bulgarian men who may be found in them are slaughtered, but generally the women are spared.

The Turkish authorities and commanders seem to have lost all control over these miscreants.

Mr. Young is greatly struck with the conduct and bearing of the regular troops, which he describes as "heroic." He says that they are marching against their enemy with the greatest eagerness and devotion. There are very few sick amongst them, although they are ill-clothed and without proper food. This Mr. Young attributes to their abstemious and sober habits. The hospitals are in good condition, and the arrangements for the sick and wounded are, on the whole, satisfactory.

The Red Cross and Crescent Association are rendering good service.

I trust that the report which Mr. Young is, I understand, sending to Colonel Lloyd Lindsay, the President of the Association which he represents, will be published, as it will go far to enlighten public opinion in England as to the horrible nature of this war. His evidence on this point can scarcely be suspected, even by those who would reject all testimony which does not coincide with their views and opinions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 319.

Consul-General Stanley to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 57.) *Odessa, August* 11, 1877.

My Lord,

THREE hundred and seventy sick and wounded men arrived yesterday; nothing was ready for them. Russians complain greatly about general want of organisation. Theoretically it appeared to be perfect, but on any hitch occurring the whole is thrown out of order.

I hear that there were not even bandages or lint for the wounded sent to the Danube from Plevna, these having been all sent to the front and overlooked in panic caused by the defeat.

The Prague regiment arrived here to-day from Ochakof; another is to follow immediately, when they will be sent to Tatar Bunar, thence probably to Kilia. One corps of guards from St. Petersburgh is expected shortly here.

Strong feelings against original necessity of the war, and against the Emperor having yielded to pressure of the Slav Committees, are now expressed at Odessa, and should the Russians suffer another severe defeat, and the feeling generally be as it is here, it may be embarrassing to Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 320.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 15. Political.) *Corfu, August 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 18th instant the company of artillery in garrison here (120 strong with three officers), were embarked on board the Austrian coasting steamer for Santa Maura to occupy the fort there, which is to be placed forthwith in a proper state of defence. A battery of six mountain guns with the necessary field accompaniments was embarked at the same time, and for the same destination.

2. The Austrian Lloyd's steamer from Trieste of yesterday (19th) brought us 140 young Ionians from the Danubian provinces with the professed purpose of taking service as volunteers in the Greek army. On landing they presented themselves at the Nomarchy, where they were told that they would be required to join one of the regiments of the line, but against this they protested, and urged that their intention was to enrol themselves in the border rangers, and with this object they requested to be sent on to Athens by the earliest opportunity.

3. Later in the day a Greek gun-boat from Patras brought eighty men of the 5th regiment of the line as a reinforcement to this garrison, but it is understood that the whole of the regular troops will be withdrawn for service on the Turkish frontier, as soon as the National Guard is organised, the order for which is expected to-morrow by the mail from Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

No. 321.

Mr. Watson to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 65.) *Stockholm, August 20, 1877.*

My Lord,

A SWEDE, with whom I am acquainted, and who has just returned from St. Petersburgh, told me, confidently, to-day that "between the 11th and 18th instant 200,000 men have been sent southwards to the scene of war; that on the arrival of these a similar number would likewise be set in motion; that, beyond all these, 1,000,000 of men were in reserve, and that every officer and man cheerfully receives his orders to join the army south of the Danube."

My informant added that volunteering was actively going on in Finland, where compulsory enlistment is not the rule.

I would forward the above to your Lordship under reserve, for I have no means of checking its accuracy, but it indicates the feeling which, I do not doubt, my informant observed amongst Russian officers, and likewise that which, with reference to the war, very generally prevails here, where sympathy seems to be with Russia.

Each télégram or report in favour of the arms of the Czar is duly repeated in the press, as being a matter of course, whilst even the most apparently authentic news of successes on the Turkish side are inserted as "coming from Turkish sources."

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. G. WATSON.

No. 322.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(Confidentielle.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 22 Août, 1877.*

EN me conformant au désir exprimé par votre Excellence dans notre entrevue d'aujourd'hui, je m'empresse de lui communiquer la copie ci-jointe de la dépêche télégraphique confidentielle de son Excellence Server Pacha, relativement à la situation de plus en plus grave des affaires en Grèce.

Votre très dévoué,
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 322.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 21 Août, 1877.*

VOUS savez que les préparatifs militaires en Grèce se poursuivent avec une activité de plus en plus croissante. Bien que le Cabinet d'Athènes ne cesse de nous tranquilliser sur ce point, les agissements des Comités révolutionnaires et le langage des journaux Helléniques ne s'accentuent pas moins tous les jours davantage. Le Gouvernement est poussé par la presse à la guerre; la nation est conviée aux armes; et, indépendamment des volontaires qui, contrairement aux lois Helléniques, sont recrutés parmi nos populations, des émissaires stipendiés parcourent nos provinces limitrophes pour y organiser un soulèvement. Le but de la Grèce tend également à exciter les esprits en Europe; témoin la démarche qu'elle a faite auprès des Puissances en prétextant l'incident insignifiant qui s'est produit à Kavarna. Cette situation ne laisse pas que de préoccuper profondément le Gouvernement Impérial, et me met dans la nécessité d'y attirer la sérieuse attention des Puissances protectrices de la Grèce.

Je vous prie donc d'en entretenir confidentiellement M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, qui voudra bien, je n'en doute pas, exercer une salutaire influence sur le Cabinet d'Athènes.

No. 323.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 361.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*

PORTE informs me that Russians, after a serious battle, were repulsed with heavy losses from Bjouma, two guns and three caissons falling into the hands of Turks. The news from Montenegro is favourable.

No. 324.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 362. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1877, 7 P.M.*

TELEGRAMS just received at the Porte from their authorities state that an insurrectionary band composed of 120 Greeks crossed the frontier in Thessaly yesterday, and attacked a Mussulman village near Tricala, which they partly destroyed by fire, after massacring a considerable number of its inhabitants, not sparing women.

Another band of Greeks, which came by sea in nine boats, effected a landing on the coast, and marched on a village near Larissa, where, joined by the native Greeks, it swelled to the number of 400 men. It was, however, driven back by the Turkish troops.

No. 325.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 24.)

(No. 363.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 23, 1877, 11·30 P.M.*

FOLLOWING telegram received from Vice-Consul at Philippopoli:—

"Private telegram just received from Governor of Chirpan to Governor of Philbé reports following:—'A Turk arriving from Shipka announced that Suleiman Pasha has captured fortified position in that Pass, Russians retreating to Gabrova, and that Suleiman is burning forests on Balkans, with help of petroleum, to drive out insurgents who may be hiding in them.'"

No. 326.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

(No. 364.) *Therapia, August* 24, 1877, 11 A.M.
(Telegraphic.)

FAWCETT, just returned from Adrianople, more than confirms the horrible massacres and outrages on Mussulmans, including women and children, committed by Bulgarians and Russians, and severe reprisals by Turkish irregulars. The state of things is perfectly dreadful. As Burrell is here, Fawcett will return with some succour to the districts that have suffered most. Thousands absolutely starving. The state of things in Bulgaria appears to be as bad as that in Rumelia. I will send Fawcett's report by next messenger.

No. 327.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24.)

St. Petersburgh, August 24, 1877.
(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegrams from Grand Duke Nicholas, dated Wednesday night and yesterday morning, report continued successful repulse of Turkish attacks on Shipka, and arrival of Russian reinforcements. Russian losses comparatively small, but many officers *hors de combat*. Turkish losses very great; three pieces of Turkish battery dismounted. Turkish force advancing from Loftcha on Selvi. All quiet before Plevna. On side of Rustchuk, Rasgrad, Eski-Djuma, and Shumla, Turks attempted to force the line of Russian outposts.

No. 328.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 24, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, August 24, 1877, 4·5 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.)

WITH reference to the representations made by some Powers at Constantinople against the violation by the Turkish army of the Geneva Convention, Count Andrassy explained to me to-day that he had joined in them because it was shown that, as no Russian prisoners have been made—their number in the hands of the Turks being limited to three—it is evident that no quarter is given by the Turkish soldiers, and that the wounded left on the field are always slaughtered.

No. 329.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 25.)

Alexandria, August 16, 1877.
(No. 259. Political.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that volunteers for the Greek army are leaving Egypt in considerable numbers for Greek ports, in British steamers and those of the Austrian Lloyds.

So far as I can ascertain about 300 of these volunteers have already left, and more are waiting to be sent off.

Their passages are, I believe, paid by a Greek Committee, and the Greek Consul furnishes them with passports.

The Khedive, who is much annoyed at these proceedings, thinks that a declaration of war against Turkey by Greece would be followed by the expulsion of all Greek subjects from the Ottoman Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 330.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(*Recieved August* 25.)

(No. 263. Political.)

Alexandria, August 16, 1877.

My Lord,

HAVING observed considerable activity in the preparation for service of the troop-ships which the Khedive has lately collected here, I asked His Highness yesterday whether he had any intention of immediately despatching the force which he had warned me was being got ready for service in Turkey if emergency arose, or whether there was any truth in the current report that the troops were destined for Candia. His Highness said that he had nothing to add to what he had already told me, namely, that the troops and transports were being prepared so as to be ready at the shortest notice; but that he had no immediate intention of sending them, nor had they any special destination; that would depend upon the orders of the Porte; in any case, he said, I should be the first to know whenever he decided to despatch them.

He added that hearing from Prince Hassan that the troops were in great want of ammunition, he had just sent off 20,000,000 cartridges, as well as the medical staff and appliances for a military hospital at Constantinople; and he was organizing for immediate despatch a complete ambulance corps to accompany the army, which he should supply with the Red Cross Flag to use in case of need.

In reply to my remark that all he was doing must entail a ruinous drain upon Egypt both in men and money, he said it was too true, but that the struggle was one for life or death to Turkey, and that his duty and interests alike obliged him to shrink from no sacrifices to assist her at such a moment; this must always be so unless Egypt were neutralized with the consent of the Porte and the Great Powers, in which case he might disband at least half his army, and materially reduce the extravagant Budget of the Ministry of War. His language is very different now from what it was at the outbreak of the war.

He spoke with bitterness and contempt of the attitude of Greece and of the proceedings of the Greeks here in volunteering for service against Turkey; Egypt, he said, was quite able, if necessary, to cope with Greece single-handed, and he expressed his belief that a declaration of war on the part of Greece would result in an order for the expulsion of all Greeks from the Ottoman Empire, a measure which he would gladly apply in Egypt. As the Greek Colony in Egypt numbers about 70,000 people, including the principal merchants and traders in the country, this would involve most serious consequences to them as well as to Egypt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 331.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August* 25.)

Constantinople, le 23 *Août*, 1877.
(Télégraphique.)

UN télégramme de Suleyman Pacha signale à la Sublime Porte une nouvelle série d'actes de cruauté commis par les Russes et les Bulgares, qui ont été constatés par l'armée Impériale dans sa marche de Ferditch à Késanlik, et que j'ai le douloureux devoir de porter à votre connaissance.

De Ferditch à Késanlik l'armée Impériale a rencontré, tant dans les bourgs et villages que dans la campagne, un nombre considérable d'hommes, de femmes, et d'enfants massacrés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares, et dont les cadavres gisaient dans les rues, dans les champs, sur les routes, ou dans les fossés. Des informations fournies par quelques hommes et femmes, qui ont réussi à s'échapper, permettent d'affirmer que les autres parties du pays visitées par l'armée ont été le théâtre de massacres semblables à ceux qui ont été constatés par l'armée, et peuvent être également attestés par les officiers et les Agents étrangers qui l'accompagnaient, et qui ont été vivement émus de ce spectacle navrant. Il est aujourd'hui démontré que les Bulgares ont procédé, sans motif, et seulement pour satisfaire leurs instincts sauvages, au massacre presque général de la population Musulmane. Par exemple, dans le village d'Ollanzir, tous les habitants, hommes, femmes, et enfants, sont tombés sous les coups des Bulgares, à l'exception d'une petite fille de sept ans. A Ketchi-Deressi, près de

Késanlik, la plupart des habitants ont été égorgés par les Cosaques et les Bulgares, et hier soir ces derniers ont achevé leur œuvre de sang en massacrant soixante-dix hommes et un grand nombre de filles Musulmanes. Ces détails ont été recueillies à Kotchi-déressi de la bouche de quelques femmes et enfants Musulmans que l'armée Impériale a délivrés. Les Russes, pour accomplir plus facilement leurs projets sanguinaires, rassuraient d'abord les habitants Musulmans par de perfides promesses, puis, après les avoir désarmés, les livraient à la rage des Bulgares auxquels leurs armes avaient été distribuées. Ils étaient ainsi conduits à la mort comme des troupeaux à l'abattoir; leurs bourreaux n'ont épargné ni les femmes, ni les enfants à la mamelle. On a trouvé, dans le village de Baiguni, des cadavres de femmes Musulmanes dont on avait enlevé les parties sexuelles. Ces cadavres près desquels gisaient leurs enfants égorgés, portaient la trace de tortures, de mutilations horribles, et d'outrages indicibles. Enfin, les horreurs commises sur les Musulmans dépassent tout ce que l'imagination peut concevoir de plus monstrueux. Il n'est pas un seul homme dans toute l'armée Impériale qui n'ait versé des larmes à la vue de cet épouvantable spectacle.

Il n'est que trop évident que toutes ces atrocités ont été conçues et exécutées dans l'horrible pensée d'exterminer dans cette contrée la population Musulmane.

No. 332.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 365. Secret.) *Therapia, August 24, 1877, 5·10 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER tells me that information received from Greece renders it absolutely necessary for the Porte to take immediate measures to meet an attack from her, and that he contemplates sending 30,000 men to the Greek frontiers, and a squadron under Hobart Pasha to make a demonstration in Greek waters. He is to propose this to a Council to-night.

The attitude of Servia is such, according to His Highness, that the Porte will also have to send a force upon her frontiers. I have told him that Her Majesty's Government have exerted their influence at Belgrade to induce Servia not to attack Turkey, and urged him not to take any step which may enable Servia to accuse Turkey of menacing her until intentions of Servian Government are clearly ascertained.

No. 333.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 366.) *Therapia, August 24, 1877, 5·30 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER admits to me that the Turkish troops, not being acquainted with the Convention of Geneva, may in some instances have violated some of its rules; but he has given orders for a Turkish translation of it to be widely distributed amongst them, and he hopes that the same thing will not occur again.

His Highness assured me that he will order every possible measure to be taken to prevent excesses on the part of the Circassians and other irregular troops, and he will request Ahmed Vefyk Pasha to-day to go to Adrianople as Vali, with full powers to deal with this matter.

No. 334.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(No. 367.) *Therapia, August 24, 1877, 5·40 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER tells me that Shipka Pass has not yet been taken, but that there was some severe fighting there yesterday, which continues to-day. I infer from what he said that the Turks were repulsed; but he seemed confident that Suleiman Pasha would succeed in taking the Russian positions.

No. 335.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, August 24, 1877, 7 P.M.*

MILITARY preparations are certainly going on here, as your Lordship knows, in view of possible eventualities; but M. Tricoupi has again assured me to-day that the Greek Government has no intention to attack Turkey at present, and that the different committees are acting in concert with the Government.

No. 336.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 25, 1877, 4 P.M.*

PRINCE MILAN has called a Cabinet Council to consider communication made by me in compliance with your Lordship's telegraphic instructions of 23rd instant.

Following is confidential:—

Prince Milan offered Russia his co-operation, this was refused in deference to Austria. Similar advice was given to His Highness at the interview with Emperor Alexander. A few days ago a message was sent to him to be prepared to join Russian action before the end of this month. Foreign Minister says no determination taken yet, but I have no doubt about the issue.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 337.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August 24, 1877, 10 P.M.*

I SPOKE last Sunday to Servian Foreign Minister very much in the sense of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday received since.

I will seek an opportunity to impart to him more fully and with still more force the views of Her Majesty's Government and the danger Servia is running; but I cannot conceal from your Lordship that in consequence of the influence brought to bear by various agents of Russia and of the inexplicable silence of Austria, I am not sanguine that any observations I may be authorised to make, however direct, are likely to deter Servia from co-operating with Russia if the Emperor consents to an alliance by means of a Convention and subsidies upon which Prince Milan appears to insist.

There is a deeply-rooted belief here that the Russian arms will ultimately prevail and that the concert of the three Emperors is greater than ever, and this paralyses the influence of the Western Powers.

No. 338.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 25.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 25, 1877.*
(Confidential.)

A FURTHER contingent of the Roumanian army crossing the Danube at Corabia.

Rumours of fighting all along the line.

Russian official information is of so vague a character that it does not appear to me that the Russians are doing more than maintaining their positions, if that.

No. 339.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 25.*)

St. Petersburgh, August 25, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

OFFICIAL telegram from Grand Duke Nicholas, dated Gorny, 23rd August, reports attack and capture by Turks of Ayaslar, south of Rasgrad, and its recapture by Russians on same evening. A second attack by Turks on following day heroically repulsed. All quiet on side of Osman-Bazar, Lofteha, and Plevna.

On 23rd August Turks again attacked Shipka, but were repulsed. On 24th August Grand Duke telegraphs combat at Shipka renewed with great vehemence from 4 A.M. till noon. Turkish attacks repulsed, reserves under Radetski arrived; further result not known.

No. 340.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 26.*)

Therapia, August 25, 1877, 8 P.M.

(No. 368.)
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Governor of Adrianople telegraphs that Russian positions in Shipka Pass, with fifteen guns, have been taken, and that Suleiman Pasha is fighting at Gabrova, but no telegram has been received to this effect from Suleiman himself, who has only stated that he had taken the two principal forts and surrounded the third, and was descending upon Gabrova.

No. 341.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 26.*)

Therapia, August 26, 1877, 1 P.M.

(No. 369.)
(Telegraphic.)

TURKISH War Office has no confirmation from Suleiman Pasha of telegram from Vali of Adrianople sent home yesterday. It informs me that great victory was won yesterday by Mouktar Pasha in the open field at Kurekdere. Turks took Kizil Tepe. Russians lost 3,000 to 4,000 killed and wounded. Turkish loss smaller. Russian General of Division killed. Russian force large.

No. 342.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 26.*)

St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1877.

(Telegraphic.)

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs as follows, dated Gorny Studeni, Friday, 24th August:—

"Turkish forces yesterday attacked Shipka vehemently from three sides; were repulsed. Russian reinforcements arrived towards evening, and took by assault heights on right flank."

Saturday, August 25, noon:—

"Heavy musket-firing all yesterday; our troops maintained all their positions; losses severe. To-day heavy cannonade again commenced against Shipka.

"We have not renewed attack on Ayaslar. Turks have concentrated large forces there and entrenched. All quiet before Plevna and Lofteha."

No. 343.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 112. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August 7, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Prince of Servia returned to the capital yesterday, the ordinary Session of the Skuptchina or Servian Assembly having been closed at Kragujevatz on the previous day.

I have further to report that the military preparations continue; that five brigades of militia are to be mobilized and to start for the frontier on Sunday next. These, with the embodied battalions of recruits, who have been in training, would make up a total force of from 30,000 to 40,000 men.

It is difficult as yet to foresee what the Servian Government intend doing with this force, as they have not the financial means available to keep them under arms for any time without assistance from Russia, of which till quite lately they had no promise.

Colonel Catardgi, the Prince's Military Agent at the Russian head-quarters, has arrived with the Prince at Belgrade, and may have brought some fresh communications.

Should Servia intend any breach of the peace, one might naturally suppose from the tone of the Austrian and Hungarian press, that some action on the part of that Power would follow; but I may as well mention to your Lordship that for some unaccountable and unexplained reason, an opinion is accredited here that Germany will try to persuade Austria not to resent any objectionable symptoms in the conduct of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 344.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 114. Political.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, August 8, 1877.*

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship yesterday, in my despatch No. 112, Political, certain military preparations going on in Servia and the supposed intention of sending off a considerable force to the Turkish frontier.

I have since ascertained that a different explanation is given in official circles here from the one which was given me as correct yesterday.

It is stated that, though a large body of militia is called upon to do duty at the frontier, the entire number will not be called out at once.

This being harvest time, successive detachments will do guard at their respective post for a week or so, and then be allowed to attend to their crops whilst others will follow them at the frontier.

The first batch would thus be called out on Sunday next the last day of July, according to the Servian calendar, and the last three weeks hence, or on September 2, and that the actual number under arms would not exceed a few thousands at a time.

It is impossible, however, to deny that even such a measure, which is called "a preparatory mobilization," can have any other object but to give the Government a large body of armed men for future use, and that it is totally uncalled-for in the present exhausted condition of the Servian Exchequer and at a time when professions of keeping peace continue still to be made here.

Time will show how far any reliance can be placed on these professions.

I hear that the Russian commanders are about to alter their entire plan of military operations, and that the staff of that army are reported as urging on the Emperor Alexander the necessity of disregarding political considerations in future, and of allowing purely military ones to predominate. Should this be the case it is not impossible that Russia would feel disposed to make use, not only of Roumania, but also of Servia during the present war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 345.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 116. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 10, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the ordinary Session of the Servian Assembly, or "Skoupstchina," has been closed on the 6th instant at Kragouiévatz.

The Legislative work of this Session has been confined to a review of the Decrees or Orders in Council promulgated during the war, and to the passing of some urgent financial measures, to which I shall have the honour to refer in a separate report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 346.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 117. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 16, 1877.

THE absorbing question of the day here is still, and has been for weeks, the uncertainty which continues to prevail as to the attitude which the Prince of Servia is likely to observe towards Turkey during the progress of the Russian War.

M. Christitch continues to be instructed by this Government to give pacific assurances to the Porte, whilst this same Government is obliged to admit that it is not altogether inactive in the way of military preparations.

These may be called by any minimising term, such as preparations towards mobilization ("Kriegsbereitschaft"), and may in the end lead to nothing, but they are inexplicable unless some hostile ulterior plans are kept in view.

The Exchequer is empty, the militia are still raw ploughmen, and a war would no doubt be extremely unpopular in the country after the sad experience of 1876, whilst the military value of Servian assistance to Russia would amount to "nil," unless the territory between the Morava and Timok could be at the same time used by a Russian force for the purpose of turning the Balkans.

It is not at all likely that this would be possible any longer in 1877, as the Russian forces in Bulgaria have proved insufficient, and by the time that reinforcements come up from Russia the season will be getting far advanced.

Moreover, it is quite certain that nothing of the kind can be done except with the tacit consent of the Cabinet of Vienna.

Indeed, Servian action is impossible without some previous arrangement between the two Imperial Courts, and it is from Vienna that we shall first hear, I presume, what Prince Milan may be expected and allowed to do.

If, however, military action on his part continues doubtful, though not impossible, this does not exclude the existence of a desire on the part of His Highness to occupy ultimately some adjacent Turkish districts, as mentioned by me in my despatch No. 101, Political, of the 23rd ultimo, if he should deem the success of the Russian arms gave him a favourable opportunity to do something of the kind.

It is thus that I understand an expression used by the Prince to one of my friends when he is reported to have said that the greatest difficulty before him was to hit the proper moment for action; taken too soon it might ruin the country, and still it ought to be undertaken before a basis for negotiation is accepted by the belligerents.

The Emperor of Russia, when pressed by the friends of Servia, at his headquarters at Biela, to secure some territorial advantages to the Principality at the future peace, is said to have observed:—

"How can I do this unless Servia is in possession at the time of something she claims?"

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 347.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 118. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that there is still no regular Russian Diplomatic Agent at Belgrade, and that any negotiations between Prince Milan and the Emperor or Grand Duke Nicholas are carried on by Colonel Catardgi, who is attached to the Russian head-quarters, and pays occasional visits to his uncle and employer, the Prince of Servia, at Belgrade. He is here at this moment.

If my information is correct, the Prince would like the Russian Court to come forward with a guarantee to enable him to obtain a loan for any emergency at Paris or in Germany.

It is extremely difficult and almost impossible to ascertain with any degree of accuracy the exact nature of negotiations carried on with such secrecy and known to very few people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 348.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 27.*)

(No. 119. Political.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, August* 17, 1877.

WITH reference to the supposed intention of Austria to occupy Bosnia in connection with some previous agreement existing between the two or three Emperors alluded to in Lord Lyons' despatch to your Lordship marked Very Confidential, I beg to make the following remarks:—

I have had occasion to observe all along here that all Servian politicians have consistently looked forward to the annexation of Bosnia in some form or other to this Principality as the chief aim of their aspirations.

I have been told that under the late Prince Michael his Government had succeeded in enlisting the sympathies even of a few Mahommedan Bosniac Beys, though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this statement.

The Servian war of 1876 followed on the insurrection amongst the Christians of that Pashalic, and on the propaganda for an ultimate annexation of that province to Austria, making itself felt in Bosnia under the patronage of many Austrian Slavs.

The plan of invading Bosnia failed, and the insurrection gradually became extinct to be renewed when peace was concluded between Servia and the Porte in February last.

Amongst the insurgents some of the Chiefs sympathise with the Austrian Slavs, others, like Despotovitch, are supposed to be partisans of Servia.

The latter having quite lately had to take refuge on Austrian territory, and having been *interné* there, it is evident that the influence of M. Ristich in Bosnia is at a very low ebb, and that there is no occasion whatever for the apprehensions expressed by the Duc Decazes on that score to Lord Lyons, when his Excellency said that "it seemed that M. Ristitch held in his hand the threads of the Bosnian insurrection."

I am bold to say that this was never the case since 1875, and never less so than at the present moment.

Indeed, there is abundant evidence at Belgrade that since last autumn, as the intimacy of the Courts of Vienna and St. Petersburgh stood the test of the last Servian war and of the renewal of the Eastern conflict, the Servians have begun to waken from their long-cherished dreams, and are gradually getting used to look upon Bosnia as the price intented by their Protector the Czar to be given to Austria for her consent to some territorial arrangements His Majesty intends to carry out should his arms be finally successful in the present war.

It is generally believed here that offers to that effect were made to the Emperor Francis Joseph by the Czar in 1876 both through Count Soumarokoff-Elston, and later personally at the Reichstadt interview.

Reasons of domestic policy, and the uncertainty as to the results which the present war may produce, have, no doubt, influenced Count Andrassy in his abstention

to act too soon on a suggestion which he perhaps hopes may be ultimately withdrawn, although its acceptance would be highly agreeable to the military party at Vienna, and probably meet with approval at Berlin.

As far as I can form an opinion from persons conversant with such matters, both Russians and Austrians, I have arrived at the conclusion that, whether there is a written agreement on the subject of Bosnia between the two Emperors or not, Russia is prepared at any time to allow Austria to annex Bosnia whenever the latter will feel disposed, and consider it her interest to do so.

The Servians feel this perfectly well, hence a diminution in their interest in Bosnia since last autumn, and a wish (hardly concealed either by the Prince or by M. Ristitch) to find some other Slav territory which they could claim as compensation for their great sacrifices in the war of 1876.

Of course they do not wish to desist altogether from their traditional claims on Bosnia till they are positively assured by the Czar that compensation will be given them in another direction.

It is for this reason that they gave a limited support to Despotovitch, and that a Bosniak notable, who has strong Servian sympathies, passed Belgrade a few weeks ago on his way to the Czar's head-quarters at Biela, with a view to beg His Majesty's favourable consideration of the ultimate incorporation of his province with this Principality.

This proceeding has been the occasion of a letter written by Dr. Ziemann, the representative of the Manchester Committee for the relief of the sufferers in the East, of which I beg to inclose a translation made by Mr. Vice-Consul Marshall.

Dr. Ziemann, who moves so much amongst the Austrian Slavs and Bosniac refugees, denies positively that any Deputation was sent by them to the Czar.

It is estimated that the Croato-Hungarian Government has spent a sum equal to 1,700,000*l.* sterling for the relief of Bosniak refugees up to this time.

I believe that a couple of years ago Sir William Holmes, my colleague in Bosnia, could not discern anything like an Austrian party there except amongst some Roman Catholic inhabitants.

I should not wonder, however, if I were told that matters had altered in that respect since that date.

The numerous refugees of whatever creed are now bound to Austria by strong ties, and are sure to exercise a powerful influence in that direction.

I consider that as long as the mutual terms between Russia and Austria continue what they are at present, the wishes of both Servians and other Slavs must submit to be guided by whatever these two Powers choose to approve, and all temptation to effect the incorporation of Bosnia with this Principality will continue to be a dream impossible to realize.

Servian statesmen see this, and what they are studying now is some scheme which would secure to them some other territorial advantage.

On one point they do not appear quite clear yet, i.e., as to whether inaction or a military action at some particular moment would be most conducive to carry out their views in this respect.

Should Russia fail in her undertaking, and have to be content with the "*status quo* amélioré" in European Turkey, Austria would be content in having the principal share in remodelling the institutions, and in carrying out reforms in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Should, however, the result of the war lead to important territorial changes in the Balkanic Peninsula, Austria would probably decide to accept the offer of Russia, and would then take possession of Bosnia, with a view to counteract the creation of other Slav States on her frontier.

In either case there is every probability that the action of Servia during this war will be entirely subordinate to the convenience and exigencies of Austria and Russia, and that she will either be checked or allowed to move, as these two may think proper; and that her future position and frontiers will be determined by an agreement between these two Empires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 348.

Letter addressed in German by Dr. Ziemann to a leading Vienna Journal.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Agram, August* 11, 1877.

ALTHOUGH it is not my mission to mix myself up with the political events in the Balkan Peninsula, I feel compelled to deny the truth of an assertion (of the "Politische Correspondenz"), according to which a Bosnian Deputation has presented the Czar with a Memorandum on the subject of Bosnia's incorporation with Servia, as I fear this piece of news is likely to do the people of Bosnia most harm there, whence it at present receives the support of which it stands so urgently in need. I am of opinion that the present refugee population of Bosnia consists of 54,000 fugitives on the Croat military frontier, 17,000 on the Servian frontier, 21,000 in Croatia proper, nearly 50,000 in Dalmatia and Montenegro, and some 1,000 scattered insurgents.

I am minutely acquainted with the circumstances of all these people, and I know they are supported by the Austro-Hungarian Government and the charity of some private English Relief Societies. I also know most of the few wealthy Bosnians, who employ their money and influence for the good of the people. I can, however, most positively assure you that no deputation was sent to His Majesty the Czar by any of these parties.

If any representative body exists which considers itself entitled to act for the people of Bosnia, it is very remarkable that I have never come across it there, where its activity is at present most required, there, where the misery and want of the whole Bosnian nation cry for protection and aid.

In the interests of the suffering Bosnian nation, I request you, Sir, to give the above publicity.

(Signed) H. ZIEMANN.

No. 349.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 672.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 9, 1877.

I HAVE received your Lordship's telegrams of this day, communicating to me copies of others from Mr. White on the subject of Servian armaments, with reference to which I have the honour to state that the Servian Agent here renewed his assurances yesterday to the Austrian Government that the preparations of Servia are only intended for the security of her frontiers, which are exposed to unusual dangers, as the Turkish regular troops have been sent to the seat of war, and the frontier guards are now entirely composed of irregulars.

Information has, however, I am told, been received at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, which gives reason to fear that a combined movement against Plevna by Servian and Roumanian troops is contemplated at Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 350.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 674. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August* 10, 1877.

IN conformity with instructions, conveyed to me in your telegram of yesterday, I have inquired of Count Andrassy what will be the attitude of Austria in the event of Servia resuming hostilities, and his Excellency answered that he had already given full explanations to Her Majesty's Government, showing why Austria could neither interfere with Roumania nor with Servia, if they should take a part in the war between Russia and Turkey, as long as they did nothing directly or indirectly injurious to the interests of Austria-Hungary. If Servia, therefore, sends a force into Bulgaria, Austria will not interfere with her; but if her troops were to enter Bosnia, an Austrian force would certainly arrest their progress, and possibly also occupy

Servia. As, however, the Servian Government are well aware of this, it may be expected that they will abstain from exciting disturbances on the frontiers of Austria-Hungary.

His Excellency also said that according to information he has received from Belgrade, the Servian military preparations could not be completed before September, and the Government would probably then think it prudent to avoid war, unless the Turks have meanwhile been seriously defeated. He does not believe that Russia has invited Servian co-operation, but he understands that if Servia thinks it expedient to renew hostilities, the Russian Government will not attempt to prevent their doing so.

He will, probably, I think, send further explanations of his views to Count Beust, as he asked me to leave with him a memorandum of the substance of your Lordship's telegrams.

In answer to an inquiry on my part as to the proposed mobilization of a part of the army, he said it would probably be deferred until he could form an opinion as to the prospects of the conclusion of the war, as it would be inexpedient to incur without necessity the expense of maintaining 60,000 men during the winter.

His Excellency asked when he might hope to receive a despatch which your Lordship had informed Count Beust I should be instructed to communicate to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 351.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 683.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 18, 1877.*

ORDERS have been received by the Turkish Ambassador to proceed immediately to Constantinople, from whence he does not apparently expect to return to Vienna. He has not, however, been formally recalled, and he professes to be unaware of any reasons the Porte may have for adopting such a measure.

He will be replaced temporarily at Vienna as Chargé d'Affaires by a Secretary of the Embassy at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 352.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 687. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 21, 1877.*

I HAVE paid due attention to the reports addressed to your Lordship during the last two months by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Rome, on the relations of Italy and Austria-Hungary, and as to the policy of the former Power with respect to the consequences of the war now existing between Russia and Turkey; and I have been guided by these despatches in the language which I have held upon the subject here.

I have not found any disposition to object to opinions which I have expressed as to the desire of the Italian Government for the maintenance of peace, and their conviction of the risks which Italy would incur, by seeking territorial aggrandizement at the expense of Austria or Turkey, but though it is admitted that it would be injurious to her interests that any change should take place in present arrangements respecting the navigation of the Dardanelles, there is evidently no confidence felt by the Austrian Government that the Italian vote in any Conference which might take place upon the subject, would be given against the wishes of Russia.

I have hitherto endeavoured to show that this suspicion is unfair to the Government of Italy, but I now regret to find from the language of Count Tornielli, reported by Sir Augustus Paget in his Excellency's despatch No. 206 of the 1st instant, that it is not altogether unfounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

No. 353.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 695. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, August 23, 1877.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 642, of the 31st ultimo, inclosing the copy of a letter from Mr. James Long, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship the copy of a further communication which I have received from that gentleman, informing me that Prince Reuss, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has provided him with documents, with a view to procure protection for himself and the communities of which he has been the benefactor, in the event of a Russian force again crossing the Balkans.

Your Lordship will learn from the inclosure that Mr. Long deprecates the employment of Bulgarians in the distribution of aid to the rural population of the province, as persons employed for the purpose use for political objects the funds placed at their disposal, and he seems to consider that some of the young men so employed before the war have been the associates, if not actually the accomplices of the Bulgarian allies of Russia, whose atrocious acts have brought discredit on her arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ANDREW BUCHANAN.

Inclosure in No. 353.

Mr. Long to Sir A. Buchanan.

Dear Sir Andrew, *Buyukdere, Hotel de Bellevue, August 14, 1877.*

I HAVE just had the honour of receiving your kind letter of the 1st instant, with inclosure, at the above address, whither I have lately come for a few days' repose, ostensibly, as well as really, on account of my health, yet having other ends to serve than that of recruiting my strength. To have quit my post under any other representation would have caused a panic; but as it was generally known that I had for some time been dragging with difficulty through my duties, it caused no surprise that I should seek change of scene and air. I have been entreated on all sides, however, to return as early as possible, since, as I am assured, my presence alone in the country commands confidence, and may prevent consequences painful to contemplate. In this petition the Turkish authorities joined no less earnestly than the ecclesiastics and leading men of the various religious and non-religious communities, the Bohemians not excepted.

I have, therefore, promised to return, and hope to do so very soon, since the bracing breezes of the Bosphorus are rapily re-invigorating me from the exhaustion attendant on the oppressive heat in which I have been "toiling and moiling" night and day in the interior, the temperature being at times 31 degrees in the shade.

The real reason, however, of my coming here has been to obtain from the Prince de Reuss, Representative here of Russia for the moment as well as of Germany, a "sauf conduit," and such papers as will, in case of need, secure all aid and protection from the Russian commanders should they come my way or I theirs, as the case may be, during this changeful scene. They had already, as your Excellency is aware, reached the margin of my "rayon d'opérations," but have recently been repelled to beyond the Balkans. The Prince and Princess de Reuss have given me a most cordial reception, and manifested a deep interest in my work, whilst his Highness has furnished me with all papers requisite, not only for myself, but for the members of my staff. On the other hand, the Grand Vizier has procured me from His Majesty the Sultan a special Firman for the occasion.

I need scarcely add, therefore, that I hope to find myself again immediately "en route," since, as mentioned in my last letter, I greatly fear some sad calamity may occur by way of reprisal ere the Russians arrive, if they ever do, to protect the Christians south of the Balkans from the consequences of the conduct of their "co-religionnaires" in the north.

Meanwhile the scene is sad enough, and the condition of the thousands of refugees —Mussulman, Jew, and Christian—that claim relief at Adrianople, Philippopolis, and elsewhere, is perfectly appalling. Happily I have still some resources in reserve, and

hope to be able to lend in these places a helping hand, though I feel it my duty to concentrate still my efforts more especially on the Caza of Bazardjik, where hitherto they have been attended with such satisfactory results. From latest intelligence all there remains tranquil, the population seeming to abide by my counsels and their own promises, as signified in the documents accompanying the letter I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on the 19th ultimo.

I cannot help adding, for your Excellency's information, that there is a strong conviction that the same tranquillity might at this time reign throughout the adjoining Caza of Philippopolis, had the fruits of British benevolence been administered there otherwise than they have been; had succour been afforded alike to all the victims of the insurrection, whether Mussulman or Christian; and had it reached its legitimate destination direct from the hands of those to whom English donors had so liberally confided it, instead of through intermediaries, almost invariably hot-headed, youthful Bulgarians, associated with the Russian propaganda, who never failed to turn the occasion to account by telling the people that the succour was sent as a signal token of England's sympathy with them in their insurrectionary efforts, and that they must therefore be prepared to rise again on the earliest opportunity. Such are the men who on the first intelligence of the Russians' success rushed forth to join them, and who are amongst those who under the name of "les vengeurs" accompany the Russian troops, pillaging, burning, and also massacring unoffending Mahommedan men, women, and children, and not sparing even those of their "coreligionnaires" who refuse to revolt against their legitimate rulers. Such are the men too that cause me the greatest anxiety for the safety of my work; since they by no means seemed content to see the victims of the insurrection succoured after the manner that I pursue; since I invariably kept them at a distance; and since they well know that I employed every available means to counteract their evil influence, and to keep them out of the caza that I had undertaken single-handed to succour, and for which I held myself responsible, as I wished those intrusted with such large funds at Philippopolis to do in their respective department. These men were by no means satisfied to see an impartial distribution of relief, nor to see Bulgarians relieved in any durable form. Money, money, or aught easily convertible into money, they would gladly distribute or see distributed; but relief by means of honestly-earned wages, or in the form of comfortable homes for the houseless, suited not their aims. Intrude, however, into my department they have done, and hesitated not to use every pretext, though happily in vain, to prevent the poor people from inhabiting the houses that I had prepared for them, going even so far as to tell them that their habitations will be burnt over their heads so soon as I have left the country; and I have good reason to know that nothing would afford these men greater satisfaction than to employ the incendiary's torch, and proclaim to Europe that it was Turkish hands that had done the deed. Yet such are the men who have handled much of the means supplied by English generosity for purer purposes than any religious or political propaganda.

I shall not now add, save to thank your Excellency most cordially for the kind interest that you have throughout manifested in the progress of my work, and for the honour that you have done me in communicating to the Earl of Derby the results of my efforts. His Lordship has been pleased to express his satisfaction at my success; should your Excellency find, therefore, either in my preceding letter or in this, aught of sufficient interest to report to his Lordship, I shall feel grateful by your conferring upon me that favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES LONG.

No. 354.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 211. Political.)
Bucharest, August 10, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report this day by telegraph that about 10,000 men of the Roumanian army have crossed the Danube from Turno-Magurelli, and now occupy Nicopoli and a position to the west of the Russian right wing.

It is said that Prince Charles will take the command of the Moldo-Wallachian force in Bulgaria should it be materially increased beyond the two divisions.

His Highness has his head-quarters to-day at Islaz, not far from Turno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 355.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 214. Political. Confidential.)
Bucharest, August 14, 1877.

My Lord,

THE almost absolute certainty that Russia will not, during the present campaign, be able to come to terms with the Porte, becomes a very serious consideration for these Principalities; and whether the question be regarded from a political and military point of view, or from a purely material one, nothing but the most serious embarrassment assails the Roumanian Government.

The Roumanian army having crossed the Danube, this Government has definitely abandoned a defensive attitude; and although Russia has kept clear of every description of engagement with the Government of Prince Charles, it becomes quite clear that the latter has now, more than ever, forfeited every claim to consideration at the hands of the former Guaranteeing Powers.

Two divisions of the Moldo-Wallachian army being now south of the Danube, and occupying positions on the land front of Nicopoli (the outposts being within fifteen miles of the Turkish lines at Plevna), the military honour of the army is compromised; and for the Roumanian force to retire from the contest before the end of the war might possibly give rise to imputations analogous to those which were attributed to the Servians in the Moscow speech.

It would of course be competent for the Prince and M. Bratiano to allege, and with perfect truth, at the end of this summer's campaign, that Roumania does not possess the means adequate for maintaining a considerable force on the war establishment; but, judging from the character of Prince Charles and from that of the Minister President, such desirable continence is hardly within the range of probabilities.

Ruin is universal in these Principalities, and it is difficult to conceive in what manner either Government or individuals will be able to weather the disastrous results of Prince Charles' ambition should a second campaign become a reality.

Every source of revenue and income is dried up; from the suspension of the Danubian navigation, and the goods traffic on the railways, all export or import commerce has ceased to exist; the Customs return no revenue, whilst the individual is unable to dispose of his produce.

Even the Russian occupation and passage of troops has not contributed in the smallest degree to alleviate the condition of things. Except in the towns, and as regards what may be almost called articles of luxury, nothing is purchased in this country for the Russian army, and all the requisites for the general provisioning of the forces are brought from Russia, where, it is to be supposed, the prices are slightly lower; but whether or not such be the case, almost nothing is taken from the Roumanian corn and cattle-dealers.

Again, there are considerable requisitions for transport, which is taken by force, and remunerated at the minimum of price, to the obvious detriment of the peasant, who ought at the present moment to be in the midst of the most important agricultural operations, whilst in many cases Roumanian peasants have been forced to follow the army into Bulgaria, and their families are becoming chargeable to the Commune.

Under any circumstances, ruin and misfortune were the inevitable consequences arising out of the war to this unfortunate population, but the embarrassment has been enormously magnified by the headlong unwisdom of M. Bratiano's policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 356.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 27.)

(No. 216. Political. Confidential.)
Bucharest, August 18, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed that this Government is calling out, for service, an additional contingent of 12,000 militia.

The passage of the Danube by the Moldo-Wallachian forces is universally condemned by public opinion in these Principalities, a feeling to which the conviction that a second campaign is now inevitable, combined with the inactivity and absence

of progressive success on the part of the Russians, has added an intensity which is extremely striking.

Among various leading personages an alteration in this sense is also to be discerned; M. Rosetti, the President of the Chamber, and editor of the "Romanulu," both in his language, as well as in his leading articles, is ceasing to support the policy of M. Bratiano; he openly declares that the Roumanian finances and army are being sacrificed without any prospect of adequate advantage to this country; and many others of political weight are holding and expressing similar opinions, whilst the outcry against Prince Charles is loud and general.

Colonel Gaillard, the French Military Attaché with the Russian army, who has recently made the round of all the positions occupied by the Roumanian army, describes that force as being destitute of nearly every requisite for a force on active service, and as totally unfit to take the field; and my French colleague assures me that Colonel Gaillard has formally expressed his opinion to the above effect to Prince Charles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. E. MANSFIELD.

No. 357.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 59. Consular.)
Bosna-Serai, August 15, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch Consular No. 57 of the 4th instant transmitting a Memorandum by Mr. Vice-Consul Cooper on the military situation and communications in Bosnia, I have the honour now to inclose two addenda to this Memorandum which have since been furnished me by Mr. Cooper.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 357.

Errata in Memorandum on Military Situation in Bosnia.

INFANTRY ARMS.

THE rifles with which the infantry are armed are not Enfields; in many cases they are of English manufacture, and bear the town mark, but they are chiefly of American make.

Their breech action is Snider's.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Vice-Consul in Bosnia.*

Bosna-Serai, August 10, 1877.

Inclosure 2 in No. 357.

Addenda to Road Report No. 5.—Brood to Bosna-Serai

POPULATION.

Name.	Inhabitants.	Civil Authority.
Brood	860	
Derwent	2,000	Kaimakam
Foca	2,000	
Doboj	1,600	Mudir.
Maglaj	1,800	Kaimakam.
Tepce	2,000	Mudir.
Vrandolk	150	Mudir.
Busovata	700	Mudir.

Errata.

The total distance of Miljacka Bridge from Brood ought to be 127 miles 4½ furlongs, instead of 126 miles 2½ furlongs, as shown in original despatch by mistake.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Vice-Consul in Bosnia.*
Bosna-Serai, August 10, 1877.

No. 358.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 320.)
Berlin, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Moniteur de l'Empire Allemand," stating that the Imperial Government, in consequence of the reports received respecting the acts of cruelty committed by the Turkish troops on the wounded Russian soldiers and prisoners, have addressed a communication to the Porte reminding them of the Geneva Convention of the 22nd of August, 1864, to which the Turkish Government became a party in 1865.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

Inclosure in No. 358.

Extract from the "Moniteur de l'Empire"

Berlin, le 24 Août, 1877.

ON lit dans le "Moniteur de l'Empire Allemand :"—

"Nous apprenons que le Gouvernement Impérial, se fondant sur les rapports officiels qui lui sont parvenus au sujet des cruautés exercées par les troupes Turques envers des soldats Russes blessés et prisonniers, en a pris occasion de rappeler à la Porte la Convention de Genève du 22 Août, 1864, à laquelle, comme on sait, la Turquie a adhéré en 1865, et qu'en même temps il s'est adressé aux autres Puissances Européennes en leur demandant si elles veulent faire une démarche semblable à Constantinople."

No. 359.

Lord Odo Russell to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 331. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, August 24, 1877.

My Lord,

PRINCE BISMARCK, coming from Varzin, passed through Berlin and proceeded to Gastein on Thursday last. He was received by the Emperor at Babelsberg and by the Crown Prince at Potsdam.

Although I did not have the honour of seeing the Chancellor myself, I have since heard on good authority that he again advocated, in conversation with His Majesty, the adherence to a policy of strict neutrality and non-interference in regard to Eastern affairs, and of a cordial and intimate understanding with England and Austria, to which the Emperor again gave his sanction and approval.

I have also been confidentially assured on good authority that Prince Bismarck is elated at the turn affairs have taken, and at what he calls the success of his policy, in urging Russia to go to war and Austria to keep out of it, the effect of which has been to paralyze the military power of Russia as an ally of France and an enemy of Germany, with which Prince Gortchakow had threatened him in May 1875.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 360.

Musurus Pasha to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 24 Août, 1877.

My Lord,

JE viens de recevoir une nouvelle dépêche télégraphique de son Excellence Server Pacha sur les événements qui se passent du côté des frontières Helléniques.

Ainsi que votre Excellence l'observera par la lecture de cette dépêche, dont elle trouvera ci-jointe la copie, je suis chargé d'appeler la plus sérieuse attention de votre Excellence sur les faits qui y sont exposés, de demander son avis sur l'attitude qu'il y aurait lieu pour la Sublime Porte de tenir vis-à-vis de cette situation, et de communiquer au Gouvernement Impérial le résultat de ma démarche. Je prie, par conséquent, votre Excellence de vouloir bien me faire savoir quand elle se propose de venir à Londres, afin que je me rende au Foreign Office pour avoir l'honneur d'une entrevue sur ce sujet.

Votre très dévoué,
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 360.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Constantinople, le 23 Août, 1877.

(Télégraphique.)

LES préoccupations que je manifestais dans mon télégramme d'avant hier commencent à être justifiées par les événements qui se passent du côté des frontières Helléniques.

En effet, une bande composée d'environ 120 Hellènes, venus de Grèce, ont attaqué le village Musulman de Pachali, en Thessalie, qu'ils ont tout entier réduit en cendres, après y avoir massacré bon nombre d'habitants, hommes et femmes.

Dans la journée de Dimanche dernier, neuf bâtiments, venus également de la Grèce, ont débarqué dans un village Chrétien, non loin de Larisse, une forte bande de malfaiteurs.

D'autres bandits se préparent, d'après nos informations, à envahir notre territoire du côté d'Armiros et de Doméka, ainsi que le littoral situé en face des îles Ioniennes. Déjà une bande de quatre-vingt malfaiteurs a fait son apparition à Daoutlou, localité sise à proximité de Doméka.

Nous avons lieu de nous étonner de pareils faits avec d'autant plus de raison qu'un des motifs mis tour à tour en avant par le Cabinet d'Athènes et par son Ministre à Constantinople pour expliquer la concentration des forces Helléniques sur nos frontières consistait dans la nécessité où se trouvait la Grèce d'empêcher l'incursion de bandes de malfaiteurs d'un territoire à l'autre. Tous ces faits sont de nature à aggraver sans aucune raison la situation déjà si critique. Il ne dépend pas de la volonté du Gouvernement Impérial de rester indifférent en présence d'un état de choses dont il décline dès à présent toute la responsabilité.

En attendant, le résultat de la démarche que j'ai faite par mon télégramme précédent auprès des Puissances protectrices de la Grèce, je vous prie d'appeler sur ce qui précède la plus sérieuse attention de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de lui demander quel est son avis sur l'attitude qu'il y aurait lieu pour la Sublime Porte de tenir vis-à-vis de cette situation.

J'attends avec impatience le résultat de votre nouvelle démarche.

No. 361.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 27.)

(No. 83. Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, August 17, 1877.

Sir,

I AM confidentially informed that the Austrian Military Attaché, on his recent return from the Russian head-quarters, was able to give such details as showed it to be the policy of the Russian authorities to instigate the Bulgarians to make attacks on the civil Mussulmann population and thus to compromise themselves with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 362.

Mr. Harriss-Gastrell to Sir A. Buchanan.—(Received at the Foreign Office, August 27.)

(No. 86. Confidential.)

Buda-Pest, August 18, 1877.

Sir,

I BEG to offer to your Excellency the following observations as in brief the outcome of my endeavours to learn the views of representative persons of the neighbouring country as to a settlement of the Bosnian agricultural and social question.

There should be a strong central Government without Councils, even of deliberation, for which the people are not ripe. The position of the rayah is the position of the Austrian or Hungarian peasant before the Urbarium of Maria Theresa. The rayah is idle, and has no fixed service to render for his land, and the Bey has too much land, which simply remains uncultivated. What is required is an not an entirely independent labouring peasantry, but the creation of such a peasantry by the necessary transitional steps. The quantity of land for each peasant should be fixed, and the dues of the peasant should be likewise established. These should now be determined in days of labour, to be converted in a second transitional period into money, and then finally compounded. This would meet the complaint of the rayah that he has no land and no assured means of existence, and the complaint of the Bey that he has only shifting and uncertain labour to till his land. One proposal I have heard mooted is that, in return for such an arrangement and a sufficient quantity of land, the peasant should give two days of labour to the Bey and two days to the State, and that the latter two should be employed in making roads and the most necessary public works.

I may add that the foregoing represents the views of an intelligent Croat or Slav, who knows Bosnia and might even wish to annex it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. P. HARRISS-GASTRELL.

No. 363.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, August 26, 1877.

TELEGRAM to-day reports as follows:

"Saturday, August 25. To-day the fifth day battle began at 9 A.M., and continues with great slaughter. Our troops stand firm. Our heroes have repulsed several strong attacks. General Derojenski suffered to-day a hero's death."

No. 364.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, August 27, 1877, 4 P.M.

GRAND DUKE NICOLAS telegraphs, dated Gorni Studen, August 26, 8:55 P.M., as follows:—

"Yesterday our troops held their positions in the Shipka Pass; loss amounting to 30 officers and 400 soldiers killed and wounded. Fighting lasted from 9 A.M. till 10 P.M. During night Turks renewed battle with fresh troops, and a desperate struggle was going on when last accounts were dispatched to-day at mid-day. Our troops stand firm."

No. 365.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 370.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, August 27, 1877, *noon.*

AHMED VEFYK PASHA has consented to go as Governor-General to Adrianople.

No. 366.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(No. 371.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 27, 1877, 4 P.M.

I HAVE received following telegram from General Kemball, dated 25th:—

"Turks have gained decisive victory. Russians having yesterday weakened left camp by withdrawing all except ten battalions, Turks before daybreak this morning stormed and took Kizil Tepe, a very strong position, and afterwards repulsed whole Russian force from right camp which came to aid left, by attacking in the direction of Subatan.

"After to-day I should have little misgiving for troops under Mouktar Pasha, notwithstanding Russian reinforcements, provided only Porte will supply him with money and means of commissariat and transport. We live from hand to mouth; to-day only two days' rations of bread in camp. He cannot make diversion to support right wing or in the direction of Ardahan."

No. 367.

Mr. Stuart to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 27.)

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Athens, August 27, 1877.

M. TRICOUPI has addressed a sharp answer to the Turkish Minister here, indignantly refuting accusations made against Greek Government respecting encounters near the frontier. He affirms that no Greek band had crossed the frontier, that the affair near Trikala was between a Greek and a Mussulman village, in which brigands may have taken part, and that Greek troops at once arrested and imprisoned those who escaped into Greece, and restored the cattle to the Turks.

The Greek Government appears most anxious to avoid giving any just cause of offence to Turkey at present, and unless the Porte wishes to provoke a quarrel it would be better for the Turkish authorities to inquire carefully into facts, before assuming that the Greek Government have committed or connived at acts of hostility on the frontier.

Sent to Constantinople.

No. 368.

Consul-General Wood to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
Tunis, August 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Grand Vizier, in thanking, by telegraph, the Bey for the horses, mules, and money which he has sent for the use of the Turkish armies, has requested his Highness to furnish a contingent of regular troops, in accordance with the Firman of 1871, which the Porte would undertake to maintain at its expense.

In reply, the Bey has expressed his regret that he was unable to comply with the Porte's requisition, owing to the very limited number of regular troops that are kept under arms, whose services he requires to keep the Arab tribes in subjection; and he has given besides such other explanations as he trusts will convince the Ottoman Government that his inability to furnish his contingent is due to circumstances over which he has no control, and not to any unwillingness on his part to do his duty towards his Suzerain.

During the Crimean war the Regency furnished a contingent of 12,000 men out of an army of 25,000 Nizam, but since that period a series of financial difficulties has compelled the Tunisian Government to reduce its regular troops to 3,000 or 4,000 men, to keep the Arab tribes in check; and his Highness apprehends that were he now to denude the country of regular troops the Arabs may take advantage of it, should any disaster befall Turkey, to rebel and endanger the safety of the sedentary population, as they did in 1864.

Besides this consideration there is no doubt that the Bey and his Government feel uneasy with regard to the fate of this country, should the Sultan succumb to the arms

of Russia. The statements made in some of the papers that such an eventuality would probably lead to the partition of Turkey, have, right or wrong, created the impression that some European Power might seize upon this Regency as a territorial compensation, and although they are aware that their means of defence are limited, yet they conceive that the few regular troops they possess would serve as a nucleus to the Arabs to rally round them for purposes of resistance.

The Grand Vizier having desired the Bey to consider the requisition of the Porte as strictly confidential, the authentic source from which I hold my information has requested me also to consider it in the same light, lest it should transpire and inopportunely open the door to fresh remonstrances on the part of some of the foreign representatives, whose intervention in a matter which the Mussulman population look upon as connected with the safety of the Caliphate, would uselessly irritate their religious sentiments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 369.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 372. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 28, 1877, 10·20 A.M.

TURKISH Government is aware of preparations making in Servia for an immediate attack on Turkey. To counteract them it will encourage Karageorge to attempt to upset Prince Milan by a popular movement, in which it is believed he will be supported by a strong party in the Principality favourable to peace.

Porte is disposed to promise to cede Little Zwornik and to make other concessions to Karageorge if he succeeds. It thinks that by pursuing this course it might avoid danger from Servia, but is doubtful as to what Austria would do.

I have spoken very strongly to Servian Agent, who is alive to the misfortunes that war would bring on his country, and has promised to urge his Government to avoid it. He is opposed to the policy of Prince Milan, but has little or no influence.

I have not telegraphed this to Belgrade, as it is very secret.

No. 370.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(No. 373)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, August 28, 1877, 10·30 A.M.

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Greek Minister yesterday that Porte could no longer be satisfied with mere assurances, but must have some more definite guarantee that Greece does not intend to attack Turkey, and will hold her responsible for bands crossing the frontier, which are not composed of brigands, as asserted by Greek Government, but of persons sent with the connivance of the Greek authorities to bring about an insurrection in border provinces. M. Tricoupi's assurances are only that "for the present" Greece does not intend to attack Turkey, which can only mean that as soon as she can do so with safety and impunity she will. It cannot be expected, therefore, that the Porte will give her time to complete her arrangements, and it appears to be determined to bring matters to an issue. I cannot conceive a greater calamity than a Greek insurrection at this time. There is bloodshed and ruin enough among Bulgarian population. It appears to me that Greece is placing herself entirely in the wrong, for, according to Mr. Stuart, she is openly making all her preparations for an aggression on Turkey. Not sent to Athens.

No. 371.

Sir A. Buchanan to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 28.)

(Telegraphic.) (Confidential.) *Vienna, August 28, 1877.*

I HAVE acquainted Count Andrassy confidentially with the substance of your telegram of yesterday. He said that he would be glad if the representations of Her Majesty's Government to Servia should prove successful; he fears the 100,000 roubles received from Russia will have great influence with the Government of the Principality. He said that the language which Mr. White is to hold is entirely justified by the facts, but the relations of the Austro-Hungarian Government with Servia will prevent their remonstrating further against her declaring war to Turkey without their being prepared to support their representations by force, and their engagements to Russia will prevent their entering the Principality, unless it creates disturbances on the frontier of the monarchy. Count Andrassy, however, is still confident, notwithstanding Russian subsidy, that no Servian troops will cross the frontier if the Porte does not send a force into the country, unless Russia gains a signal victory.

No. 372.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 467.) *Foreign Office, August 28, 1877.*

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me on the 27th instant the telegram from Server Pasha, of which I inclose a copy herewith, complaining of inroads committed from Greece across the Turkish frontier.

In an interview which I had subsequently with Musurus Pasha I told his Excellency that I would be ready to represent the matter to the Greek Government, and to request explanations from them on the subject.

I received shortly afterwards, however, from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens a telegram to the effect that M. Tricoupi entirely denies the accusations brought against the Greek Government respecting encounters near the frontier, and affirms that no Greek band had crossed the frontier; that the affair near Trikala of which the Porte complained was a conflict between a Greek and a Mussulman village, in which brigands might have taken part, but that the Greek troops at once arrested and imprisoned those who escaped into Greece, and restored the cattle to the Turkish authorities.

Mr. Stuart added that the Greek Government appeared to him most anxious to avoid giving any just cause of offence to Turkey at present, and he expressed his opinion that it would be better for the Turkish authorities to inquire carefully into facts before assuming that the Greek Government had committed or connived at acts of hostility on the frontier.

I thought it well to make Musurus Pasha acquainted with the substance of the above, stating that I should be glad to learn the opinion of his Government on the assurances thus received before I proceeded to make any representation such as Server Pasha desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 373.

Acting Consul Barker to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 52. Political.) *Salonica, August 22, 1877.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information a copy of my despatch of the 18th instant, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the proclamation of martial law in this and the neighbouring vilayets, and the movement of troops from the 7th to the 18th August, 1877, which despatch contains an inclosure, being copy of the official notice.

I have also the honour to inclose herewith a copy of my further despatch of the same date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the liberation of Yehia Bey and the men with him from prison without trial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 373.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, August 18, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that martial law was proclaimed here yesterday, and also in several other districts, as may be seen by the copy of the Circular Notice in French from the Governor-General to all the Consuls here, which I have the honour to transmit to your Excellency herewith.

Abdullah Pasha, "Liva," from Monastir, and Youssouf Bey, "Miralai," with other subaltern officers, have come here to form the military Court of Martial Law, to be presided over by our Vali, Nousret Pasha.

Movement of troops since the 7th instant:—

On the 11th August an Austrian merchant steamer took away from here 160 Mustahfiz to be landed at Dédé-Agatch.

On the 12th instant the French merchant steamer of the Fraissinet Company took away 178 condemned criminals to be landed at Constantinople.

On the 13th an English merchant steamer "Imbat," took away 160 horses, and about 100 grooms to be landed at Dédé-Agatch, and by the same vessel 188 condemned criminals to be landed at Constantinople.

On the 13th two Egyptian war-steamers took away 550 horses and 300 grooms, 300 Bashi-Bazouks, 200,000 okes of biscuit, and 300 sacks of flour to be landed at Dédé-Agatch.

Yesterday, the 17th instant, a Turkish transport steamer from Constantinople landed here two regiments of regular troops (infantry) and about twenty days since began to come in from time to time regulars from Montenegro, those, it is said, who have remained from eleven regiments, in all about 900 men, and they are encamped outside this city.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 373.

Proclamation of Martial Law by the Vali of Salonica.

Avis Officiel.—Etat de Siége.

A LA suite des suggestions des personnes malveillantes et ennemies, certains indices de perturbation dans l'ordre des choses ayant été observés, c'est ce qui pourrait occasioner (Dieu nous en garde!) une revolution dans le vilayet, l'état de siége vient d'être proclamé par Iradé Impérial pour le moment, dans les localités ci-après:—

Au Caza de Caraferia, et au Nahiyé d'Agosta, y comprises les montagnes d'Olympe, au Caza de Salonique, et aux Nahiyés de Caterine, de Langaza, de Vardar, de Kelemerié; à la ville de Salonique, aux Cazas de Vodina, de Yenidjé, ainsi qu'à leurs Nahiyés, aux Cazas d'Avret-Hissar, et de Dogrian, et à leurs Nahiyés; aux Cazas Strumitza, Kiaprulu, et Tikvesch, ainsi qu'au Nahiyé de Malesh, au Caza de Kessendré, et à ses Nahiyés; à la presqu'île de Mont Astros, au Caza de Cavalla, et à Sari-Chaban, et Cara-Agatz, au Nahiyé de Pravista, et à toutes ses dépendances. Enfin de la côte des montagnes d'Olympe, dans les limites de Yeni-Chehir, jusqu'à Dedeaghatch, à tout ce littoral l'état de siége est appliqué.

Art. 7 de la loi de l'état de siége.—Une fois l'état de siége proclamé ceux des Articles de la Constitution et des autres lois civiles qui seraient contraires à la présente loi de l'état de siége ne sont pas en vigueur provisoirement.

Art. 8 de la loi de l'état de siége.—A l'effet de maintenir l'ordre et la

tranquillité les attributions des autorités civiles sont transférées aux autorités militaires.

Par conséquent le public est prévenu que l'état de siége sera proclamé dans les localités ci-dessus mentionnées à partir de ce jour, Vendredi, $\frac{5}{17}$ Août, 1877.

Inclosure 3 in No. 373.

Acting Consul Barker to Mr. Layard.

Salonica, August 18, 1877.

Sir,

REFERRING your Excellency to my despatch of the 4th instant, I have the honour now to state that Yehia Boy, and the men who were put into prison on the accusations brought against them by the Wallachian shepherds and the inhabitants of their district, have been set at liberty without any trial at all.

I cannot say whether this is the act of our Vali himself or whether he has had instructions from Constantinople to liberate these men in consideration of the present state of political affairs. I merely record the fact.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 374.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 43. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 14, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, an incident which has taken place between the Governor-General Ibrahim Pasha and M. Riva, the Italian Consul, acting on behalf of Russian interests.

In the afternoon of the 12th instant, lodgings being required for the immigrants, a house hired by a Russian subject who is now absent from Trebizond, but who has left in it all his furniture, stores, account books, &c., was broken in by the police, headed by the Moukhtar and the Imam of the quarter, and a number of Abazians lodged in it.

The partner of the above-mentioned individual, himself a Russian, living on the premises, although not having tried to oppose the intrusion, was bound, severely thrashed, and put in prison, he having, as it was pleaded by the Turkish authorities, struck the policemen.

The Italian Consul having sent his Dragoman to complain of the whole proceeding to the Governor-General, obtained the liberation of the prisoner, but received at the same time the following message, which was communicated to me by my Italian colleague:—

"Tell the Consul not to lend too much the ear to the affairs of these people, for, owing to such affairs, blood may also be spilt, and the Consul will be the cause of it."

Here is the Turkish text:—

"Consolosa seuilé Ki boo adamlerin isheriné pek coolak vermésin, tsunki, benilé ishlerden can dà denkilé bilur, ve Consolos sebeb olovi."

This morning M. Riva, having called on Ibrahim Pasha to ask from him explanations on the subject of his message of the 12th, he denied most emphatically having uttered the last sentence relating to the spilling of blood.

The Italian Consul answered that as his Dragoman was a Government officer, though sorry, he could not do otherwise than apprize his superiors of the occurrence for their appreciation.

Ibrahim Pasha replied that that being the case, he would in the future receive from him nothing but written communications.

The Pasha then asked whether he had come to submit him to an examination, whereupon M. Riva rose to depart, saying that the Italian Consul had come to do nothing of the kind, but only to impress on him the gravity of his message, which, he hoped, he would not have to regret, and that he was sorry to have to add in his report the incident which was occurring at that moment.

Ibrahim Pasha answered that he had received him as usual, but that he might, after all, write to his superiors, and that he would do so on his side.

Without making any comments on the present incident I avail myself of the opportunity it offers to submit to your Lordship that, although Ibrahim Pasha is of an inoffensive character, he is not always guarded against using expressions of which he does not, perhaps, fully realize the seriousness.

In talking with me some time ago of Moukhtar Pasha's retreating marches, he told me, in the presence of third parties, that the Turkish army was retreating, and always retreating, but that a moment would arrive when further retreat being impossible, something would occur which would make all Europe pull her ears.

Utterances of this nature, meaningless, I am certain, in Ibrahim Pasha's mind, but coming from a functionary of his rank may, if known to the public, so increase the excited feelings of the populations as to produce regrettable consequences.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 375.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 44.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 15, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch addressed by me this day to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the Abazian emigration from the Caucasus.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 375.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, August* 15, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that the transport of the Caucasians has continued since with great activity.

The total of the refugees embarked up to date is 14,000, about 8,000 of which have been landed in this town, and the remainder at Ordov, Tripoli, and Kerassond.

If the information which I have obtained is correct, the number of those willing to emigrate is no less than 50,000; and that of the cattle hitherto brought to the sea-shore for embarkation is reckoned to be upwards of 100,000, of which about 5,000 have been conveyed here. There are also quantities of Indian corn lying on the beach, while much more is expected to arrive from the interior.

I understand from competent authorities that, with the means now at the disposal of the Turks, nearly a year would be required to transport the refugees and all the stock belonging to them, but as no more than two months of fine weather can be reckoned upon on these coasts, the embarkation will be impossible if not completed before bad weather sets in.

There is also the danger of the Russians coming in large numbers and capturing the cattle and provisions belonging to the refugees.

Under these circumstances it would be in the interest of the refugees, as well as of the Turkish Government, in case the latter has not sufficient means of transport of its own, to hire vessels for the speedy embarkation of all the property belonging to the new settlers.

The expense to be incurred in freights would be more than compensated by the value imported in Turkey, and would relieve sooner the Government from the obligation of issuing rations; while the immigrants would not be deprived of the means that they possessed in their native country for addicting themselves to agriculture and to the breeding of cattle.

I have assisted at the landing of nearly all the refugees. Most of them, especially in the first arrivals, were women and children. They brought over with them their house furniture. The men are said to have been left behind to look after the remainder of their property until embarked.

Nothing more miserable than the appearance of the immigrants landed can be imagined. Some of them are literally covered with rags—the children wear usually nothing but a shirt. Other refugees are better clad, but in all cases their filth is above all description.

Though they are represented in general to be well off, charity, I am certain, would find among them many deserving cases to relieve; and to this I beg to call your Lordship's attention should there be an opportunity to recommend their case to the Committee for the relief of refugees.

The religion of the Abazians seems to partake of the superstitions of both the Mahommedan and the Christian creeds; however, about one-half of them are considered, and consider themselves, to belong to the former and the other half to the second faith.

Among the refugees who came here there are also forty or fifty Mingrelian and Georgian families, who state, I understand, that they have been compelled to expatriate themselves by the Turks, who burned down their houses and deprived them of their property.

I have had as yet no occasion to see myself one of these refugees, nor any of the Abazian Christians, who, I am told, make similar statements; but two Abazian Mussulmans with whom I have spoken say that they, having taken part in the insurrection, were afraid of remaining in their country after the departure of the Turks, and that they emigrate voluntarily, burning down themselves their houses and the property which they cannot carry away.

I shall not fail to investigate and report to your Excellency any subsequent information which I may obtain tending to prove whether compulsory means have been used towards all or any particular class of the emigrants.

However it may be, the Turkish authorities here are displaying great zeal and sympathy in attending to their wants. A Committee has been appointed to find for them places of shelter. It consists of the Custom-house Director, the Health Officer, the President of the Municipality, the Agent of the Ottoman steamers, the Colonel of Police, and two Ottoman notables. It was, perhaps, a mistake not to introduce in it the Christian element.

The Governor-General, Ibrahim Pasha, assisted in person at their landing, and often with his purse exceptional cases of distress.

As it was with great difficulty that empty houses could be procured, several of the immigrants have been lodged and are still in mosques. However, the Turks of Trebizond do not consider even the Abazians calling themselves Mussulmans as really belonging to their faith, and know that the others are styling themselves Christians.

On their landing Turkish women brought to the refugees on the sea-shore water, bread, and even more substantial food; but I am sorry to have to report no similar attentions on the part of the Christians, although they claim most of the Abazians as belonging to their creed.

Each of them receives a daily ration of ½ oke (1⅜ lbs.) of bread, which can hardly be considered sufficient to keep them in good health if their means do not allow them to add some extra food to this daily ration issued to them by the Government.

The Abazians seem to be quiet people, and, so far as I have been able to judge of them, I believe that their residence here is not likely to trouble public tranquillity.

There are no contagious diseases among them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 376.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 55. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 18, 1877.

IN the last despatch which I had the honour to address to your Lordship, I gave an account of the gathering of Christians in Apokorona, for the purpose of signing their Petition of Rights. All the districts from Candia westwards, or somewhat more than half the island, have been sending their representatives to the camp established in Apokorona, as many as 1,000 men having been assembled there at one time. The election of the deputies has been conducted in a quiet, business-like way, the leading men in each district assembling for the purpose in some church in a central position

No. 375*.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 46. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, August* 17, 1877.

I MENTIONED in the inclosure of my despatch to your Lordship No. 44 of the 15th instant, that there were among the immigrants some Mingrelians who, it was rumoured, were stated to have been forcibly carried to Turkey.

Having succeeded in finding among them a few speaking Turkish, I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship the narrative which I heard a few hours ago from their own lips.

They state that they belong to the district of Babooshara, on this side of the River Godor; that between men, women, and children they number seventy-nine souls; that they are the only Mingrelians who have been brought to Turkey with the Abazian immigrants; that their houses and part of their moveable property have been burned down by Mussulman Abazians, Circassians, and Turkish soldiers; that they (Mingrelians) have all sustained more or less heavy losses, but that some of them have been reduced from easy circumstances to poverty; that one or two of them, having refused to march to the sea-shore, were bound and thus embarked; that some members of their families are not with them, and that they do not know their fate; that there are among them a few Mingrelians belonging to other places, who, happening to be in their village at the time, were also conveyed here, their families remaining behind; that they are treated on the same footing as the other immigrants, and molested in no way, but that the half oke (1⅛ lbs.) of bread which is daily issued to each of them is not sufficient to keep soul and body together; that they understand that the Turkish Government intend to send them in other parts of the Empire, a proceeding against which they protest, as they have no intention to settle in Turkey, where they are against their will, but are desirous, on the contrary, to return to Russia as soon as it is possible for them to do so.

As it cannot have been the intention of the Porte to force Russian subjects to immigrate into Turkey against their will, the regrettable incident in question must be attributed to some over-zealous officer.

However the evil is done, and no doubt is possible on the subject, having examined ten Mingrelians, who make all the same statement; nothing remains, therefore, but to remedy the mistake, and the sooner it is done, no doubt, the better.

There being at this moment almost daily departures of vessels of war for Soukhum Kalé, the Mingrelians may easily, before the Government undergo further responsability, now that the error is known, have them sent back to their country in the same manner as the Ottoman subjects mentioned in my preceding despatch have been returned to their own, on their having expressed that wish.

However, should strong considerations induce the Porte to postpone the carrying out of this measure at the present moment, orders might be given, at least, that when the other immigrants are sent to more distant parts of the Empire, the Mingrelians should be allowed to remain here until the convenient time has come for them to return to their native land.

I am informed by these individuals that there are also Abazians, whom they call old Christians, who are in an identical position as themselves.

They reckon at 500 the number of those at Trebizond, but do not know that of those sent to other Turkish places; they may be in the proportion of 5 per cent.

I hope to be able to see some of them to-morrow, and hear from their own mouths the real state of their case.

According to the Mingrelians the so-called new Christian Abazians, that is, as better explained to me by others, those who have been compelled by the Russians to embrace Christianism, make common cause with their Mussulman countrymen, who have voluntarily emigrated and intend to settle permanently in Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

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where they recorded their votes, and the persons thus selected proceeded to the meeting accompanied by a goodly following. The people's Memorial, which I have not yet seen, has now received nearly all the requisite signatures. It is said to be couched in moderate, respectful language, and the reason of the gathering, as well as its justification, are there stated to be that his Excellency the Governor-General had repeatedly asserted that the Deputies elected to represent the Cretan Christians in the General Assembly had been led astray by a few intriguing spirits among them to demand the modification of the Organic Law of the Island, and that the people themselves would have none of these things, being quite satisfied with the existing Administration. As the only means of giving a public refutation to this assertion, the Christians had called on their brethren to testify to the sincerity of their desire of a reform of the laws, by their peacefully gathering together and signing a respectful Memorial to the Sultan. It is generally believed, this duty performed, that the people's deputies will disperse to their respective homes, and thus the danger of a conflict with the authorities will be avoided. Should the agitation of the past fortnight be thus happily brought to an end, the result will be due in no slight degree to the dispiriting effect on the Christian Chiefs of the late military successes of the Turks.

In order still further to insure the tranquillity of the district of Selino, the Vali has dispatched thither a battalion of Mustahfiz, numbering 1,100 men.

There is some excitement in this town to-day in consequence of an affray which occurred last night between two Mussulman shepherds and a band of sheep-stealers, who were Christians. The former lost their lives in defending their master's property, and the murderers, having taken to the mountains, it is feared the police will not be able to capture them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 377.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 56. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, August* 19, 1877.

THE unfortunate incident mentioned in the closing paragraph of my last despatch has been productive of great irritation in the town. Yesterday a body of Mussulmans, numbering 300 at the least, marched through the streets to the Governor's konak, and called on his Excellency to bring the murderers of their brethren to justice, insisting also on permission being given to any Mussulmans to enter the town, on the ground that there was no security for their lives outside. Samih Pasha assured them that no efforts would be spared to apprehend the authors of the cruel deed; but he wisely refused to allow the villagers to leave their homes, and, in order to pacify the excited crowd, he promised to post a few troops in the neighbouring villages. This morning, however, I learn that, in spite of the Pasha's orders, the Mussulmans are flocking into the town, which has, of course, produced a dangerous increase of excitement, which is yet further enhanced by the menacing attitude of the crowd, who have pistols and knives secreted on their persons, and are loud in their threats of vengeance.

In my despatch No. 48 of the 27th ultimo, I ventured to offer the opinion that while the island remains in so restless a state, the presence of one of Her Majesty's ships of war in Suda Bay would contribute to the general tranquillity. It is in view of some unforeseen event, such as that reported above, that the presence of a man-of-war is rendered advisable, as the native Christians are easily alarmed, and no wonder, when they hear of massacres occurring in other parts of Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 378.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 950. Confidential.) *Therapia, August 17, 1877.*

My Lord,

A "MEMOIRE" which has been presented to the Porte, probably by the direction of Monseigneur Hassoun, the Chief of the Roman Catholic community in this country known as the Hassounites, has been given to me confidentially. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it; and your Lordship will, I think, read it with some interest. Its object is to point out the advantages the Turkish Government would derive from recognizing Monseigneur Hassoun as head of the Roman Catholic Church in Turkey, and granting to him the Imperial "berat" to that effect. By so doing the Porte would conciliate the Pope, who has already, relying upon the promises he has received that this step should be taken, called upon the Roman Catholics to espouse the cause of Turkey in the war with Russia. A league is proposed between the Holy Father and the Caliph of Islam to resist the encroachments of Greek and Russian Orthodoxy, and the intrigues of Panslavism. The "Mémoire" furnishes some curious evidence of the rivalry existing between the different Christian creeds in the Turkish Empire; and the worldly, though perhaps not strictly Christian, advice is given to the Turks to avail themselves of it in their own political interests. Altogether, the document gives a very striking and truthful picture of what Christianity is in this country.

I am informed that the Pope is getting somewhat impatient with the delay which is taking place in the fulfilment of the promises of the Grand Vizier to recognize Monseigneur Hassoun; and that a hint has been given to the Porte that if the matter is not soon settled, His Holiness may find an opportunity of pointing out to the faithful that the Turkish cause is not, after all, so worthy of sympathy and support as he had at first supposed. The Turkish Government would do well not to neglect the hint. Server Pasha assured me, when I last saw him, that although he was at one time opposed to the claims of the Hassounites, the services which the Pope had rendered to Turkey in the present struggle with Russia had made him change his opinion, and that he was in favour of issuing the "berat" of recognition for Monseigneur Hassoun.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 378.

Memorandum.

1. L'intérêt du Catholicisme étant identique à celui de l'Empire Ottoman en ce qui concerne la résistance à l'envahissement toujours croissant du Panslavisme qui vise à détruire aussi bien l'un que l'autre, il est du plus haut intérêt du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman d'utiliser l'influence du Catholicisme et de la Papauté, et en obtenir le puissant concours pour combattre collectivement l'ennemi commun, l'agression Slavique.

2. Les bonnes dispositions du Saint-Siége et des chefs religieux des populations Catholiques de la Turquie sont déjà acquises à cette cause, ainsi que plusieurs faits en font foi. Il est donc urgent d'aviser aux moyens pratiques pour en tirer le profit le plus prompte et le plus efficace, surtout durant la crise palpitante que nous traversons.

3. Deux sont les terrains et deux les moyens que le Gouvernement Impérial devrait employer pour en faire sortir tout l'effet: l'un à Rome, pour attirer par l'entremise du Saint-Siége toutes les sympathies de l'Europe Catholique à la cause Ottomane; et l'autre à Constantinople, en formant un point de ralliement de toutes les populations Catholiques Slavs ou non Slavs de l'Empire, centralisé dans la personne d'un haut dignitaire ecclésiastique jouissant la confiance aussi bien du Gouvernement Impérial que du Saint-Siége et des chefs religieux des susdites populations Catholiques de l'Empire, ainsi qu'il en avait eu un commencement du temps de feus Réchid Pacha, Fuad Pacha et Aali Pacha. La réalisation de ces deux points est la chose la plus facile, surtout dans les présentes circonstances, puisqu'elle est dans le cours naturel des événements de l'époque actuelle.

4. Pour commencer de ce deuxième point, c'est-à-dire de la création d'un point de ralliement à Constantinople de toutes les populations Catholiques de l'Empire, point qui faciliterait en même temps la réalisation du premier, il convient savoir que, sans parler pour le moment des populations Catholiques de la Turquie d'Asie, mais seule-

ment de celles d'Europe, c'est-à-dire de Bosnie, d'Herzégovine, d'Albanie, d'Epire, de Mirdite, de Bulgarie, de Thrace et de Macédoine, il y a environ un million de Catholiques. Leurs chefs religieux sont des hommes éminents et instruits et jouissent d'une grande influence auprès de leurs populations respectives, habituées *ab antiquo* à suivre scrupuleusement les instructions de leurs chefs spirituels. Ces mêmes populations Catholiques, comparativement aux Bulgares et aux autres Chrétiens Orthodoxes, sont plus avancées au point de vue moral, matériel et intellectuel, et sont douées en même temps d'un grand courage et d'un caractère ferme, de sorte que toutes ces populations, unies et dirigées par un même centre d'action, et marchant par conséquent sur une même ligne de conduite et appuyées par l'influence morale du Saint-Siége et de l'Europe Catholique, constitueraient un élément sérieux moral et matériel de résistance aux envahissements de l'ennemi commun et, au besoin, une force armée puissante au service du Gouvernement Impérial.

5. Le haut dignitaire ecclésiastique qui serait en état d'accomplir cette haute mission, est indubitablement sa Béatitude Monseigneur Hassoun, versé dans les affaires politiques et religieuses, et jouissant non-seulement la confiance du Gouvernement Impérial et du Saint-Siége, mais aussi celle des Archevêques et Evêques de Bosnie, d'Herzégovine, d'Albanie, de Bulgarie, de l'Abbé mitré de la Mirdite, et des chefs de missions ecclésiastiques des districts de Varna, de Prisrend, de Monastir, de Salonique, &c., &c., et dont il connaît, mieux que toute autre personne, les besoins, les maux et les remèdes. Monseigneur Hassoun jouissant en même temps d'un grand renom en Europe, son attitude, ses paroles et sa conduite y produiraient un grand retentissement, et il contribuerait éminemment à faire converger l'influence de l'Europe Catholique, déjà si bien disposée, et même de plusieurs hautes sphères de l'Occident, en faveur de la cause Ottomane.

6. A cet effet, comme son Altesse le Grand Vizir y est déjà décidé, il convient de se hâter d'investir sa Béatitude Monseigneur Hassoun du caractère officiel du Patriarche des Catholiques, comme auparavant, et lui donner l'appui de la Sublime Porte dans l'œuvre salutaire qu'il se mettra immédiatement à poursuivre conformément aux intentions et aux inspirations du Gouvernement Impérial. Sa Béatitude expédiant avec zèle et promptitude les affaires de ces populations auprès de la Sublime Porte, remplirait leurs exigences et ne laisserait aucune prise à l'ingérence étrangère; par la confiance qu'il leur inspirerait par son caractère spirituel, mieux que tous les Gouverneurs même les plus sympathiques et les mieux intentionnés, sa Béatitude pourrait captiver leurs cœurs de plus en plus envers le Gouvernement Impérial et les convaincre mieux que toute autre personne des avantages des mesures et dispositions que le Gouvernement Impérial va établir pour les dites provinces. Ainsi la satisfaction manifestée par ces populations Catholiques à l'endroit de ces dispositions paralyserait les plaintes que les Slaves Orthodoxes pourraient susciter contre elles. Au besoin sa Béatitude pourrait envoyer, en ligne confidentielle ou officielle suivant les circonstances, des personnes influentes de son clergé au milieu de ces populations Catholiques de la Turquie d'Europe pour les unir strictement sur la même ligne de conduite, conformément aux vues du Gouvernement Impérial et fournir en même temps à la Sublime Porte les informations les plus confidentielles sur la vrai situation des affaires de ces pays avec tous les détails intéressants, ainsi que avec l'indication des moyens les plus propres à prévenir en temps utile l'éclat du moindre trouble.

7. Ce système puissant contribuerait d'une manière particulière à favoriser l'œuvre de Monseigneur Nile Isvoroff, Archevêque Bulgare Catholique. Avec l'appui de Monseigneur Hassoun et avec les ressources que celui-ci pourrait mettre en jeu, Monseigneur Nile ne tarderait pas à se rallier les grands groupes des Bulgares Orthodoxes, qui lui ont déjà fait des avances, mais qui craignent de se prononcer ouvertement, faute de moyens, de resources, et de protection. Il pourrait aussi au besoin appeler auprès de lui des personnes influentes de ces différentes populations pour les mieux instruire sur les bienveillantes intentions du Gouvernement Impérial ainsi que du Saint-Siége et les édifier sur l'avantage de l'action combinée des populations Catholiques des susdites provinces pour sauver, sous l'égide de l'Empire Ottoman, les intérêts aussi bien de leurs Eglises que de leurs communautés respectives, qui risqueraient autrement d'être absorbées et anéanties dans le grand gouffre Panslavique.

8. Cette même centralisation de l'influence des populations Catholiques de l'Empire sur une personne éminente comme point de ralliement jouirait infailliblement aussi un rôle important dans le futur Parlement, en attirant les sympathies et le respect de l'Europe Catholique envers la Constitution et par conséquent envers la cause Ottomane.

9. L'attitude de ces populations Catholiques, guidées par une main habile et par

l'ascendant de l'influence spirituelle, solidairement avec l'Empire Ottoman, engagées en lutte contre le Panslavisme et favorisées par le Gouvernement Impérial en compensation de leur dévouement au Trône du Sultan, exercerait en même temps une influence salutaire sur les autres populations Chrétiennes Slaves Orthodoxes, les édifierait sur leurs vrais intérêts et en les mettant en garde contre les suggestions étrangères les instruirait à ne pas chercher leur bonheur en dehors, mais uniquement dans la bienveillante sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman.

10. Quant à la réalisation du deuxième point, c'est-à-dire de l'utilisation du prestige du Saint-Siége en faveur de la cause Ottomane, elle serait déjà bien avancée par l'exécution des mesures indiquées dans les articles précédents. Sa Sainteté le Pape n'hésiterait pas d'envoyer au besoin même un délégué spécial pour féliciter, suivant l'usage établi, Sa Majesté le Sultan de son avénement au Trône des Ottomans, si Sa Majesté aurait la complaisance de le lui annoncer. Dans tous les cas, pour faire éclater les sympathies du Pape à la cause Ottomane, il serait indispensable de rendre amicales les relations actuelles entre la Sublime Porte et le Saint-Siége, sans même leur donner un caractère officiel et diplomatique. Le Ministre Plénipotentiaire de la Sublime Porte à Rome, son Excellence Essad Bey, qui, d'ailleurs, nourrit les mêmes convictions sur les avantages de ce système au profit de son Gouvernement, pourrait être autorisé à renouer des rapports purement officieux ou indirects avec le Vatican et échanger ainsi, bien qu'en ligne confidentielle, les sentiments de sympathie mutuelle entre la Sublime Porte et le Saint-Siége.

11. Sa Sainteté serait alors en état de plaider hautement la cause Ottomane et ne laisserait échapper aucune occasion privée ou solennelle pour faire parvenir partout sa puissante voix à l'appui du droit, de la justice, et de la légalité foulés aux pieds dans la cause Ottomane. Le Saint-Père n'hésiterait même pas d'inculquer par les moyens les plus propres aux populations Catholiques de l'Empire le devoir sacré de soumission à l'autorité du Sultan et d'encourager en même temps leurs chefs religieux de se rallier autour du centre établi à Constantinople, et de suivre fidèlement la même ligne de conduite. Sa Sainteté ne trouverait aussi aucune difficulté, au contraire, ce serait dans ses vues de voir dans la personne de Monseigneur Hassoun l'organe et l'intermédiaire des différentes populations Catholiques auprès du Gouvernement Impérial, dans la persuasion qu'il est que ce système, qui écarterait toute ingérence étrangère, serait le plus convenable à la haute politique de l'Empire Ottoman.

12. Enfin un organe Turco-Français créé au besoin à Constantinople même et inspiré par le haut clergé Catholique, soutiendrait officiellement devant l'Europe la cause Ottomane et entraînerait ainsi avec elle toute la presse Catholique d'Europe à plaider la même cause et constituerait au nom des populations Catholiques de l'Empire une protestation permanente contre toutes les objections soulevées contre le Gouvernement Impérial par la presse anti-Ottomane au nom fictif des populations Chrétiennes de la Turquie. Ces manifestations n'étant pas officielles mais parfaitement indépendantes et spontanées et provenant des plus hautes sphères du Catholicisme, ne pourraient pas être taxées comme inspirées ou imposées par la Sublime Porte, comme l'on est habitué à l'accuser, et par conséquent elles auraient un poids immense devant l'Europe entière.

13. Ce double plan inauguré, comme on a dit plus haut, sous les Ministères de feus Réchid, Fuad, et Ali Pachas, bien que incomplètement exécuté, avait réussi à maîtriser pour bien deux fois un mouvement insurrectionnel, que des influences étrangères avaient cherché à exciter alors en Herzégovine et en Mirdite.

14. Vu la solidarité des intérêts du Catholicisme avec ceux du Gouvernement Impérial vis-à-vis du Panslavisme, la Sublime Porte peut franchement poursuivre l'exécution et le développement successif de ce double point sans aucune crainte de voir compromise sa confiance; car un tel cas compromettrait en même temps les intérêts les plus vitaux du Catholicisme en Turquie. Dans tous les cas ce double moyens devrait être adopté par le Gouvernement Impérial, si ce n'est que pour donner une forte impulsion au courant de conversion de la Bulgarie.

15. Il est bien entendu que si, contrairement à tout ce qui précède, la Sublime Porte aimerait mieux (ce qui d'ailleurs ne serait pas permis même de supposer) laisser languir les intérêts du Catholicisme en Turquie, dans l'état aussi illégal qu'injuste que la politique fatale de Mahmoud Nédim Pacha, guidé par une influence hostile aussi bien au Gouvernement Impérial qu'au Pape, lui a créé, et qui malheureusement n'a pas été encore réparé, bien que le Saint-Siége s'est empressé d'écarter tout motif, voir même tout prétexte, malheureusement le Gouvernement Impérial, loin de tirer aucun profit de cette situation, perdrait la meilleure des occasions et nous aurions même le regret de voir languir à leur tour les sympathies de la Papauté et de l'Europe Catholique envers la cause Ottomane. Les populations Catholiques de l'Empire

elles-mêmes, voyant que l'anomalie créée à la religion Catholique en Turquie, ou pour parler plus correctement, l'infraction flagrante portée aux droits les plus sacrés et les plus légitimes du Catholicisme bien que garantis par la Constitution elle-même, n'est nullement réparée malgré tant de dévouement qu'elles ont manifesté et tant de sacrifices qu'elles se sont imposés, ces populations, disons-nous, blessées dans ce qu'elles ont de plus sacré et de plus sensible, seraient poussées au plus profond découragement, et l'élan si franc et si salutaire, qu'elles manifestent actuellement, finirait par s'éteindre insensiblement.

Constantinople, Janvier 1877.

No. 379.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 951.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 18, 1877.

IN forwarding the inclosed copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, I beg to call your Lordship's attention to Mr. Blakeney's suggestion that a Vice-Consul should be appointed at Avlona.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 379.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Prevesa, August* 11, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 4th instant, reporting to your Excellency the insult offered to Signor Corte, the Italian Vice-Consul, as well as the nature of the satisfaction demanded by, and afterwards given to, him, your Excellency will no doubt have perceived that two or three days had elapsed before Signor Corte had demanded the above satisfaction, and as I crossed over to Santa Maura for a few hours on Monday last, for the purpose of obtaining some information from the British Vice-Consul there respecting the Greek armaments, &c., I discovered, from what he told me, that the above two or three days had been employed by Signor Corte in communicating in cypher with Rome, viâ Santa Maura, so that there is not the slightest doubt but that he acted on that occasion in accordance with instructions secretly sent to him from Rome; and this mode of proceeding on his part, or better on the part of the Italian Government, has added to the impression which exists here, and which, I find, also exists at Santa Maura, that Italy is looking out for some pretext so as to occupy Albania.

In my despatch of April 28 to Mr. Jocelyn, I ventured to recommend the appointment of a Consular Agent at Avlona, a measure which I now feel more than ever called upon to recommend, for it is quite clear that should an Italian occupation of Albania be decided upon, Avlona would be the first port to be occupied, and as there is a large Italian colony, and two or three Italian men-of-war appear to be always stationed at Avlona, I strongly suspect that some Italian intrigue is being carried on there, and of which we are perfectly ignorant, simply because we have no official there to supply us with the necessary information.

I avail myself of this opportunity to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch dated 20th July, relative to the cutting down of the olive trees round Prevesa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 380.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 29.*)

Therapia, August 18, 1877.

(No. 952.)

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, relating to the occurrences at Yeni-Zaghra. The inquiries into the massacre of Christians at that place were made by my instructions. Your Lordship will perceive that there is nothing in the evidence furnished to me to corroborate the statement made by the correspondent of the "Times" and others that Christian women were violated. If such outrages had been committed, I cannot doubt that they would have been mentioned by the Christians who gave information to Mr. Dupuis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 380.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 14, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the following papers relative to the massacres and outrages which took place at Yeni-Zaghra on the 15th ultimo:—

A despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis, containing particulars of individual cases.

The narrative of Koliogln Pascal; and

The narrative of Yoanna, of Yeni-Zaghra; both furnished by Mr. Dupuis.

The statement of Todortcha Stoyankoff, furnished by Mr. Edmund Calvert.

From the above papers and information which I have obtained from other sources it appears that the lamentable events at Yeni-Zaghra are to be ascribed in the first place to the culpable conduct of the Turkish authorities in quitting the town precipitately, along with the Mussulman population, and without having provided any measures for the security of the lives and property of the Christians whom they left behind. A set of bad characters—Turks, were, moreover, suffered to remain in the town; and it is to these men, unrestrained by the presence of any constituted authority, and also to the Zeibeks and other irregulars who passed through the town on the following day, demoralized by defeat, that the bloodshed, pillage, and fire which ensued are, in the second place, to be attributed.

The fugitives who were brought away by the regular troops speak in the warmest terms of the promptitude and zealous care shown by the military authorities in protecting them from the irregulars and conveying them in safety to the railway station.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 380.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 1, 1877.

Sir,

AGREEABLY to your request, I have the honour to state that, having seen and spoken with several of the victims, Christians as well as Mussulmans, by the recent occurrences at Yeni-Zaghra and elsewhere, I beg to acquaint you with the result of my visits to those sufferers.

Gospodino Ivanoglu, a Bulgarian, a native of Yeni-Zaghra, related that, seeing the irregular troops returning after an encounter with the enemy, about the 15th of last month, he concealed himself with two companions; but being discovered by those soldiers, they fired at and killed one of his companions, he receiving two severe sword-cuts on the head and others on the back.

Moumké, the daughter of Peno, also a native of Yeni-Zaghra, a Bulgarian, while making her escape during the massacre with her two children, one an infant in arms, stated that this child was snatched from her by Zeibeks, who killed it before her eyes.

Radé, daughter of Zerghi, about 20 years of age, also a Bulgarian of the same place, related that while endeavouring to escape from Yeni-Zaghra, was hit in the right elbow by a musket-ball, which, according to medical opinion, will necessitate amputation of the arm.

Gospodino Kolio, a child about 6 years old, was shown me, wounded in the face; whose grandmother stated that the child's father, while carrying it away during the massacre, was killed by the irregulars, the child receiving the wound in its left cheek.

A Mussulman named Edhaïm Halilogln, of Essekgi, in the district of Yeni-Zaghra, was fired at by Cossacks as he was assisting his family to quit the place and severely wounded in the right arm.

According to a statement of Dimitri Mantchugi, a Greek, who called this morning, it would appear that a Turk named Arif Said Oglu, an inhabitant of Tchermen, killed Yorghi Kosla, a Christian, by plunging his knife into his stomach. From what I can gather of this circumstance, it appears that Yorghi delayed in hastening the departure of the Turk and his family from the village.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 380.

The Narrative of Koliogln Pascal.

KOLIOGLU PASCAL, age 35, a Bulgarian of Yeni-Zaghra, a shoemaker, related that on Sunday the 15th of July last, at 8 A.M., while on a visit at the house of the brothers Rali and Dentcho, also Bulgarians, some Turkish irregular soldiers (Zeibeks) came up to the house, and without any previous warning, broke their way in and fired at the brothers, killing them both on the spot. The narrator made his escape through a back door, and took refuge in the house of Pope Millail, the priest of the village, whither many people had fled, including women and children. After being there some little while he heard shots fired. He remained concealed in the house all that night, being afraid to venture outside. Going into the streets the next morning he saw the dead body of a man, which he recognized to be that of his friend Marco Guergheoglu, of Yeni-Zaghra, and the dead body of a woman named Swedo, the wife of Nonć, both shot, and dragged them to the priest's house, where he helped to bury them in a corner of the court-yard.

He remained in the priest's house from Sunday morning till Monday night, and finding his way on Tuesday morning to the railway-station, made his escape to Adrianople, along with some 300 fugitives gathered and protected by the regular troops.

Taken before me,

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Vice-Consul.*

Adrianople, August 11, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 380.

The Narrative of Joana, of Yeni-Zaghra.

JOANA, age 30, the wife of Heisto Zurleoglu, of Yeni-Zaghra, a Bulgarian shepherd, related that about noon of Sunday, the 15th of July last, she was at home with her three children, Dina, Kalio, and Stanko, and, seeing a fire in the village, she got alarmed, and left her house with her children, and, with the assistance of Stoyan Breshil, a waggoner, and another man named Yanik Mito, got into a cart and made for a field. There they found upwards of twenty people collected—men, women, and children. After resting a while, and about moving on to the village of Ingekeuy, they saw some mounted soldiers coming towards them. These soldiers, when they came within 20 feet of them, fired into their midst, and kept on firing until sixteen of the party were killed, and four wounded.

The names of those killed are—

1. Stoyan Breshil.
2. Yanik Mito.
3. Lazaroglu Marco.
4. Kunguos Heisto.

5. Heisto Ivantcho.
6. Heistoglu Yoiftcho.
7. Stoïl Muktar.
8. Gano, the wife of Kolio.
9. Mito } children of Gano and Kolio.
10. Maritza }
11. Peno, the wife of of Karagios Heisto.
12. Marika, daughter of Peno and Karagios Heisto.
13. Kurti Guerghi.
14. Yovanoglu Heisto.
15. Mitoglu Stoyan.
16. Martinoglu Dino.

The names of the wounded are—

1. Chero, the wife of Stoyan Breshil.
2. Miritcho } children of Chero and Stoyan Breshil.
3. Stoik }
4. Marion, the wife of Stoil Muktar.

The narrator with her three children escaped being killed by crouching down behind the cart and coverlets, and by the falling upon her of the dead bodies of her friends.

The soldiers leaving, she got up, and with her children escaped to Jenidge, from whence regular soldiers escorted her to the railway station, and she came on to Adrianople.

Adrianople, August 11, 1877.

Inclosure 5 in No. 380.

Statement of Occurrences at Yeni-Zaghra, as related by Todortcha Stoyankoff, a Member of the Medjliss of that Town.

ON Saturday, July 14, about 1·30 P.M., news was received that the Russians had crossed the Balkans at Hain-Bogbaz. The Mussulman inhabitants thereupon went to the Government konak, and with the Kaïmakam's consent armed themselves with the (military) arms in depôt there. The informant was at the konak at the time. He suggested to the Mukhtar Khalil Aga, that, as he supposed this measure was adopted with a view to the preservation of public order, it would be well for the Christian inhabitants to be armed also. The Mukhtar answered that that was neither his nor Totortcha's business, and advised him, as a friend, to keep quietly at home. He then accompanied the informant and his companion Kalo, also a member of the Medjliss, to their houses. The informant kept within doors for the rest of the day and night.

On getting up next morning, the informant observed that no Mussulmans were going about. He then learnt that they had all left that morning with their families by rail, going south, and leaving their property behind. The informant sent off a note to the Kaïmakam representing the desirability of taking joint measures for the protection of the abandoned property, and proposing to go and see him, if he would give him an escort of zaptiehs. The messenger returned, saying that he could not find the Kaïmakam, and that neither he nor any of the Turkish authorities or of the telegraph employés remained in the town. The informant then again shut himself up in his house, in alarm, some twenty Bulgarian families taking refuge with him, mostly women and children. About noon they heard from the house the sound of axes breaking open houses and shops. In another hour or so, they saw from the windows of the house (which is in a commanding position) fire bursting out from the bazaar. The flames spread. The informant afterwards learnt that a certain number of Turks of bad character had stayed behind, and that these plundered the property of Mussulmans and Christians alike. At about 1 P.M. big guns were heard firing. He guessed that it must be the Russians, and heard afterwards that it was so, but he know nothing for certain that day, and remained shut up till next morning.

On the next day (July 16), the informant received a message from General Mehmed Pasha (whom he knew), announcing his arrival, and advising the informant to leave with his family by rail for Adrianople. In the afternoon the Pasha sent ten soldiers to escort him and his party to the railway station. About 1,000 Bulgarian inhabitants of the town (which contains 450 to 500 Bulgarian families) left at the same time. All are most grateful to Mehmed Pasha for the care, attention, and

kindness which he showed them on this occasion. The informant learns that the Pasha, on the day following (July 17) sent soldiers to Indjé-Kioi, a village in the neighbourhood, whither many of the Bulgarian inhabitants of the town had fled, and brought these away also in safety.

Adrianople, August 11, 1877.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 381.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 953.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 18, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Lennox, referring to the alleged massacre of Christians by the Turks at Yeni-Zaghra. I attach a good deal of importance to Colonel Lennox's full and impartial statements, as the reports brought to Constantinople by M. de Hirschfeldt caused a great sensation, and were, I am informed, at once transmitted to Berlin, where they made an equal impression, and have laid the foundation of a sweeping and general accusation against the Turks of murdering the Christians.

Colonel Lennox very properly condemns the conduct of the "Times" correspondent in offering money for dead bodies, which I have already brought to the notice of your Lordship.

I would venture to suggest that a copy of this despatch should be sent to Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 381.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Shumla, August* 9, 1877.

MY attention has been called to the following passage in "Le Temps" of the 27th July last:—

"*Constantinople, le* 28 *Juillet.*

"Le Secrétaire de l'Ambassade Allemande M. Hirschfeld, envoyé en Bulgarie, a raconté que la population d'Yeni-Zagra a été massacrée par les Turcs."

As the above paragraph is capable of producing a more unfavourable effect than the circumstances, I believe, warrant, I consider it right to take some notice of it.

As I mentioned in my letter dated Yeni-Zaghra, July 21, 1877, a small column, consisting of 2 companies of Mustahfiz, 100 irregular cavalry (Broussa horse), and 2 field-guns, marched on the 15th July from Slivno to Yeni-Zaghra. According to the information I obtained this small column, after leaving Yeni-Zaghra, saw a small body of Russian cavalry which retired after firing a shot or two. As the town of Yeni-Zaghra was on fire, and the Bulgarians were reported to be breaking into the store of arms, &c., at the railway station, the column returned to Yeni-Zaghra, and I understand that shots were fired against the inhabitants, but I did not hear that anything took place which could be fairly turned into "the population of Yeni-Zaghra having been massacred by the Turks."

I reached Yeni-Zaghra on the 20th ultimo; at that time there were a good many of the inhabitants of Yeni-Zaghra bivouacked, with their arabas or country waggons, near the Yeni-Zaghra railway station, where his Excellency the Muchir Raouf Pasha had his head-quarters.

A correspondent of the "Times," Mr. Gambier, arrived at Yeni-Zaghra on the 21st ultimo, and I believe that he did find some dead bodies. I did not then know that it was considered a part of my duty to search for and report "atrocities," and I did not pay particular attention to the number of bodies that were said to have been found, I fancy it was about thirty, but I did not make any note of it at the time. I have no doubt Mr. Gambier found all the bodies there were, as Lieutenant Chermside heard that gentleman tell Raouf Pasha that he was offering rewards for the production of "dead bodies." Lieutenant Chermside has not yet arrived from Rasgrad, where I left him on the 6th instant, so I cannot refer to him; but the rewards were, I believe,

a napoleon, or 1*l.*, a-piece, quite sufficient to ensure all dead bodies being produced, even if it were not sufficient to cause the bad characters to kill some people for the purpose of earning the liberal reward of the "Times" correspondent. I may mention that I understood that the reward for a dead Turk was to be larger than for a dead Christian. I do not know whether there was to be any limit as to the time within which the bodies were to be produced; but it occurred to me that it was not a wise proceeding to offer rewards for dead bodies. Circassians are only too apt to murder Christians without any reward, as is evident from the massacre at Günetly Mahalesi, ten miles from Yeni-Zaghra, reported in a previous letter. Some of the Christians of these countries are also not averse to massacring Mussulmans, as is stated to have been the case at Küdirbe, also ten miles from Yeni-Zaghra, reported in a former letter.

On the 23rd ultimo, accompanied by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., and Doctors Leslie and Meyrick, I took a walk in the town of Yeni-Zaghra, and visited two sets of premises where about 263 Bulgarians were assembled, over whom Raouf Pasha had placed guards, at the request of Mr. Gambier. The Bulgarians informed me that many of the inhabitants had gone by railway to Adrianople.

On the 25th ultimo I again with the same gentlemen took a walk in Yeni-Zaghra, and on neither of these occasions did we see any dead bodies, but we did not search for them. I am aware that Doctors Leslie and Meyrick had been with Mr. Gambier into the place, and had seen dead Bulgars.

I think the above is sufficient to show that M. Hirschfeld was misinformed by those who told him that "the population of Yeni-Zaghra had been massacred by the Turks." I did not hear that he had been at Yeni-Zaghra at all. The extract itself may possibly be incorrectly given.

Raouf Pasha's force moved to Yeni-Zaghra from Slivno on the 18th and 19th ultimo, I believe, and Viscount Melgund was there on the latter date, and until 11 P.M. on the 21st ultimo.

I believe that one other Englishman was there on some day between the 15th and 20th ultimo, viz., Mr. Leader, of the "Daily Telegraph."

I mention the names of these two gentlemen in case it is considered worth while to obtain further information on the subject of the affair which M. Hirschfeld terms the massacre of the population.

I ought, in justice to the Turkish column that went to Yeni-Zaghra on the 15th ultimo (which, it must be remembered, with the exception of the artillery, was composed of irregulars and Mustahfiz), to state that I was told the troops were fired at from Yeni-Zaghra; ammunition was said also to have been found in the town which was not Turkish ammunition, and which was stated not to fit any Turkish arm. I did not examine into this, but I believe that Mr. Gambier tried the ammunition to ascertain whether it was for any Turkish arm.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 382.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 954.) *Therapia, August* 19, 1877.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 948 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a more complete statement as to the occurrence at Kyzanlik, made by Raghib Effendi to Mr. Calvert.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 382.

Statement of Occurrences at Kyzanlik, as related by Raghib Effendi, Cadi and Acting Kaïmakam at the time of the Capture of that Town by the Russians.

ON the final defeat of the Ottoman troops before Kyzanlik (July 17) Raghib Effendi sent out three deputations with white flags to meet the three advancing columns of the enemy. Each deputation consisted of four persons, two Bulgarian and two Turkish notables. The deputation which first fell in with the Russians was invited to return, in company with a detachment of Cossacks. These, entering the town, destroyed the telegraph office, and then retired. A Russian official who spoke Turkish, and who, Raghib Effendi learnt, was lately Russian Consul at Erzeroum, then came into the town, and calling on Raghib Effendi, as Acting Kaïmakam, told him that three hours were given to the Mussulman inhabitants in which to deliver up their arms and deposit them at the konak. Raghib Effendi, after giving orders to that effect, went out to meet the Russian General in command, accompanied by all the Mussulman and Christian notables of the town. As they came up to the Russians a few shots were fired on the latter by the Turkish troops retreating on the hills. Upon this the Russians opened fire, not upon the troops who had fired, but upon the deputation. Fortunately no one was hit, although the bullets whistled past them. Raghib Effendi then returned to the konak in order to signal to the Turkish troops to desist from firing, and to enjoin the inhabitants of the town to refrain from doing so. In the meanwhile 300 Cossacks, under the command of an officer, entered the gardens just outside the town. As they approached a shot was fired from the detached house of one Mustafa. Eight Cossacks thereupon dismounted, four of them went into Mustafa's house and four into that of Shirinoglu, close by. In the first house were four women and three men, and in the latter three women and one man. All these women and men were shot by the Cossacks, and both houses were pillaged. Raghib Effendi and other inhabitants of the town waved white handkerchiefs in token of submission. The Russian bugle sounded, and the official above-mentioned, formerly Consul at Erzeroum, who had accompanied Raghib Effendi to the town, at the invitation of the latter walked with him through the town to satisfy himself that no one was armed. The two then took their way on horseback towards the advancing Russian forces. On the road they were met by a Cossack, who made Raghib Effendi dismount. They came up to an officer who, as Raghib Effendi understood, was second in command. This officer, holding a revolver to the Effendi's head, told him he would conduct him to the General, and that if on the way a single shot should be fired he would be a dead man. They reached without any incident the General, whom they found on horseback about half-an-hour from the town. They saw here the Kaïmakam of Kyzanlik, Akif Effendi, who had been taken the day before when leading on the irregulars (500 men) who were sent from Kyzanlik to support Khouloussi Pasha's brigade. He was placed under arrest for having, whilst a civilian, taken part in military operations. (Some days afterwards he was brought into town from the General's head-quarters, shot through the jaw, whilst attempting, so the Bulgarians informed Raghib Effendi, to effect his escape. The Kaïmakam was unable, owing to the state of his mouth, to give his own account of the matter to Raghib Effendi.) Raghib Effendi, placed between two files of soldiers, was then made to accompany the General on his march towards the town. He was at first on foot, but on complaining to the General that he was tired, he was allowed to have a horse. The General remained outside the town. The officer second in command, accompanied by Raghib Effendi, went on to the Government konak, which they found being plundered by the Bulgarians. These had served the "Mahkemeh" (the Cadi's office) and the post-office in the same way. The Cadi's own house (from which his family was absent at the time) and that of Mustafa Aga, a Turkish notable, were likewise pillaged. The Russian officer ordered the Bulgarians who were found plundering the konak to be driven away, which was done by the soldiers with blows. By order of the officer the arms which had been collected at the konak were placed in a room, which he sealed up. Raghib Effendi was then told to accompany the procession which was being formed by the Bulgarian inhabitants to go out and greet the Russian General. He did so, the procession being headed by priests in full canonicals, with crucifixes, pictures, &c. It was joined by the whole Bulgarian population, male and female, the former all wearing European headgear, and the latter in holiday clothes. In passing through the town the Bulgarian women brought out water, wine, cakes, &c., which they presented to

the Russian troops, and they strewed the pavement before them with flowers. The men hurrahed and clapped their hands, and invited Raghib Effendi to do the same, but he declined, saying it was not the Turkish custom. Whilst the procession was returning to the town it fell in with two Mussulmans. The Bulgarians bound them both and brought them along. One of them happening to stumble and fall, some Bulgarians shot him dead as he lay on the ground. Other Bulgarians then interceded for his companion, saying he had done no harm, and this man (one Hassein Aga, whose wife was one of the women killed in Shirinoglu's house), was thereupon released. The General, after dismounting for a few minutes at the monastery, in the suburbs of the town, continued his march towards Shipka with one column, whilst a second column proceeded towards Kalofer, and a third towards Eski-Zaghra. In the evening there arrived about 17,000 more men with several guns; of these, according to the Bulgarians, 10,000 were "Committee" soldiers, that is, Bulgarian insurgents. Raghib Effendi was placed under the charge of a Cossack, who conducted him to the house of the Russian Colonel in command at Kyzanlik. Whilst addressing this officer a common Bulgarian who was present knocked of Raghib Effendi's turban from his head violently. The Effendi remonstrated, saying to the officer "it is not our custom to uncover the head." The officer replied "do as you like," but did not reprove the Bulgarian. Raghib Effendi was told to keep within the doors of his house, which is attached to the Mahkemeh, and is opposite to the konak. From the windows of the house he saw the Cossacks distributing the arms taken from the Turks among the Bulgarians of the town. This was done in an indiscriminate manner. After an hour the Bulgarians, on the pretence of searching for arms, began to enter and pillage the Mussulman houses. Raghib Effendi also saw them snatching off the turbans and fezes of the Turks. They came under the window where Raghib Effendi was seated, complaining of these insults and reporting that several men had already been killed. He thereupon, with the consent of the Cossack under whose charge he was placed, went to see the Colonel above-mentioned, but was answered that he could not be received, and must consider himself under arrest. Two more Cossacks were then placed over him. In the evening these three Cossacks asked him to treat them to wine and women. On the same night there was, by order, a general illumination among the Bulgarians. The Cossacks having obtained drink and become intoxicated, Raghib Effendi escaped into another house. This was overlooked, and his movements were not afterwards interfered with. He was, however, still refused admittance to the presence of the Colonel, whose notice he wished to call to the continual complaints and lamentations of the Mussulmans. Having heard that an Administrative Commission of Bulgarians was formed, he applied for admittance to the room where they were assembled, but was refused. He afterwards called at the house of a member of the Commission, one Yaghji Gautcho, a Bulgarian notable, and begged him to let the Colonel know that the Mussulmans were being robbed, ill-treated, and murdered. Gautcho advised Raghib Effendi to stay at his (Gautcho's) house, saying that, as a Bashi-Bazouk had killed a Russian officer on the Balkans the day before, there would be a general massacre of the Turkish population of the town, and that, having a personal regard for Raghib Effendi, he wished to save his life. He added that some of the members of the Commission were desirous of exempting certain Mussulmans from slaughter, but that the majority, supported by the Russian military authorities, would not allow any exception to be made. The Bulgarians, meanwhile, were assembling, loading their arms. Raghib Effendi declined Gautcho's offer of protection, saying that, should there be a massacre of Mussulmans he would die with the rest. (If there was any foundation for Gautcho's assertion, the massacre project must have been reconsidered, for it does not appear that there was any attempt to carry it out). Upon this Raghib Effendi received a summons to present himself before the Commission. He asked for and received a safe conduct from a Russian Lieutenant who was lodging in the house. On reaching the Commission he laid before it the complaints of the Mussulmans. Whilst he was so engaged a Russian official came with a message from the Colonel-Commandant, desiring Raghib Effendi to bring to him six of the Turkish notables. On complying with this order the Effendi was told by the Colonel that whilst, on the one hand, those who were guilty of the acts he complained of would be shot, he, Raghib Effendi, and the six notables must undertake to visit and search the Mussulman houses; that the Russians would do so afterwards; and that, if the latter found any arms concealed, Raghib Effendi and the six notables with all their families, would be put to death. At the request of Raghib Effendi and the notables, they were accompanied and assisted by six Cossacks in the performance of the above task. In some of the houses searched, Cossacks and Bulgarians were found pillaging. The Cossack escort arrested these, but they were afterwards released. Some arms were found; they were taken and distributed among the Bulgarians like the rest. The bodies of seven Turks were also found. These men had been killed by the Cossacks for having fired on the latter in fear. (In this fact is probably to be found an explanation of what precedes).

On the fourth day after the Russian occupation a new administrative Commission was formed, superseding the former one. It was composed of nine Bulgarian and three Turkish notables, who were charged with the collection of supplies for the army and with the preservation of public order. A Colonel and a Captain were adjoined to this Commission. When twelve days had elapsed, the Commission announced that pillage was now over and that plundered property would be restored. The Moslem townsmen began by degrees to show themselves, and to open their shops, whilst the Turkish peasants who had fled to the town were sent back to their villages to bring in forage, &c. For all that, pillaging and murders went on every day, and no Mussulman complaints were attended to. One day two Turks were hanged by order of the Commission on the general ground that they were old offenders. The execution was performed badly. The Colonel coming to the Commission reprimanded them for having made the men suffer, saying, "Did you not know that a newspaper correspondent was here?" On another occasion seven Turkish peasants were bound and put to death outside their villages by the Bulgarians on the ground that they could give no guarantee for good behaviour. Upon complaint being made of this, the Commission directed that no one should be put to death without trial.

On the 31st July (the morning of the Russian defeat at Eski-Zaghra) the two officers called together the principal inhabitants and ordered every one to attend to his business, saying that the tithes and other taxes would be collected, but the military exemption tax be remitted; that the Turks were not to be molested; they were to be free to go to mosque, and, under the shadow of Russia, would enjoy tranquillity, for that the Czar made war on the Sultan and not on the Turkish people. The Mussulmans present were bare-headed and standing up. Raghib Effendi was also on his feet, but was allowed to wear his turban. It was only on the invitation of a person present, who, he was told, was an English newspaper correspondent, that he obtained a seat and was shown civilities. In the evening of that day, Bulgarian fugitives came in from Eski-Zaghra, bringing the news of the Russian defeat there.

On the following day (August 1) the Bulgarian Commission and inhabitants and the Cossacks gave notice to the Mussulmans to keep at home, warning them that any person found out of doors would be shot. Towards evening the routed Russian soldiers began to arrive from Eski-Zaghra, and that same night the enemy evacuated Kyzanlik, retreating to the Shipka Pass, and taking along with them the whole Bulgarian population of the town, men, women, and children. Some Cossacks and a body of Bulgarian police were left to guard the houses and property of the fugitives. The Bulgarian scum of the population remained, and these employed themselves in pillage and in the killing of Mussulmans the moment the retreat began.

On the next day (August 2) the young wife of one Mehmed Agha, a notable who had escaped from Kyzanlik, had her child snatched from her breast and killed, and she herself was afterwards put to death. Raghib Effendi saw a party of thirty or forty Bulgarians, accompanied by two Cossacks, take two Turks, bind them, and cut off their heads before their own doors. Their bodies were left there. Five or six other Turks were killed the same day, three being old men.

On the day following (August 3) ten Mussulmans were killed in their houses. A Turkish girl and a child, who went to draw water, were carried off, and it is not known what has become of them.

On the 4th of August seven men were taken from a house by the Cossacks and shot, on the ground that they wished to escape from Kyzanlik. Ten Turkish women were on this day violated, but whether by Cossacks or Bulgarians Raghib Effendi cannot say. (There had been two cases of a similar nature under the second Commission. The women were examined in the presence of the newspaper correspondent above mentioned. They then retracted the charge, but they afterwards stated privately to Raghib Effendi that they had done so through intimidation, the Cossacks implicated having threatened to take their lives if they denounced them.) Raghib Effendi was informed that, on the same evening, the male inhabitants of the neighbouring Turkish village of Hasskioi were summoned in the name of the Commandant of Shipka, and were then bound and put to death. The old women of the village shared the same fate, but the young ones were carried off to Shipka. The village was then burnt. The

first-mentioned facts Raghib Effendi has on report, but he can vouch for the burning of the village, which he saw from Kyzanlik. The Turkish village of Shekerelli, near Hasskioi, was reported to have shared the same fate, the inhabitants being massacred. Only five or six were said to have escaped.

On August 5 Raghib Effendi left Kyzanlik for Adrianople.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Adrianople, August 13, 1877.

No. 383.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 955. Most Confidential.)

Therapia, August 18, 1877.

My Lord,

THE Austro-Hungarian Ambassador has been sounding persons about the Sultan and the Porte as to the possibility of peace. I judge from what he has said to me that the conclusion to which he has come agrees with my own, namely, that whilst His Majesty and his principal Ministers would be glad to bring the war to an end they would not, under present circumstances, accept any such terms as the Emperor of Russia would be likely to propose.

I have seen during the last few days several persons who are in a position to know the Sultan's views on the subject. They have given me to understand that His Majesty might accept the Protocol, and that he would enter into some engagement, not guarantees, for the good government of all his subjects, without distinction of race or creed, but that he would not make any concessions in favour of the Bulgarians alone. Beyond this, until his armies have received some signal defeat, he would not go.

As to the Russian terms submitted to your Lordship through Count Schouvaloff, they would not be listened to for a moment.

Count Zichy observed to me that the difficulty of putting an end to the war lies with the Emperor of Russia and not with the Sultan. His Excellency thought it scarcely possible that, after the reverses that his arms had sustained, the Emperor could, in face of the public opinion of his country, accept any conditions which did not secure the object of the war. Count Zichy has probably been instructed by his Government to watch for any opportunity that may occur for offering the mediation of Austria, but he does not appear to me to be very sanguine that such an opportunity will soon present itself.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 384.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 956.)

Therapia, August 18, 1877.

My Lord,

ON the 16th instant I received a telegram from Consul Blunt informing me that nine Bulgarians of good standing, natives of Yeni-Zaghra, had been arrested, and that their families fearing that they would be hanged on the following morning asked me to intercede for them. I wrote a private note to the Grand Vizier, appealing to his sentiments of humanity, and representing to his Highness the importance of treating the Bulgarian prisoners with leniency, and of preventing hasty executions, from which innocent persons might suffer. His Highness very kindly answered me at once that he would send orders that no sentence should be carried out without being previously submitted to him. I subsequently received a telegram from Mr. Blunt informing me that there had been no further executions. On previous days a good many Bulgarians appear to have been condemned by court-martial and hung.

After the horrible cruelties practised by the Bulgarians upon the Mahommedan population, it is not surprising that those who may have taken part in the rebellion against their Sovereign and have joined the Russians, should be treated with great severity. Such would be the case in any country. It is to be hoped that the innocent will not be confounded with the guilty, and that the Turkish Government will proceed with as much moderation and humanity as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 385.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 961.)

Therapia, August 20, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the editor of the "Vakit," a newspaper in the Turkish language published in Constantinople, and known to be "inspired" from the palace. This letter may not be altogether unworthy of your Lordship's attention, as it describes, I believe, fairly and accurately the opinions of the majority of thinking Turks with respect to the war with Russia and the policy of England. I may add that I have no personal acquaintance with the author of the letter, and that the "Vakit" has recently distinguished itself by articles against England written in a very bitter spirit.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 385.

M. Philippe to Mr. Layard.

Excellence,

Constantinople, le 13 *Août*, 1877.

COMME un représentant de la presse Ottomane, je prends la liberté d'adresser quelques lignes à votre Excellence, et j'espère qu'elle les acceptera avec d'autant plus d'indulgence que c'est la franchise qui les a dictées.

Nous sommes aujourd'hui engagés dans une guerre formidable qui agite profondément les esprits en Turquie et préoccupe l'Europe au plus haut point.

En m'a qualité de journaliste, dans les entretiens que j'ai eu avec les représentants de la presse étrangère ainsi qu'avec des étrangers de distinction et des "politicians," j'ai remarqué de leur part un certain désir de sonder l'opinion publique chez nous.

Je suis constamment en contact avec cette opinion et je puis tracer tel mes impressions avec autant de précision que possible.

Grâce à Dieu, nous avons pu montrer une force de vitalité et d'énergie au délà de toutes les prévisions qui avaient été formées en Europe.

L'ennemi n'a pas trouvé sa tâche aussi facile qu'il le croyait.

L'opinion publique Ottomane pense avec raison que le pays fort de son droit saura bien repousser l'invasion.

Nos forces et nos ressources militaires sont intactes.

L'ennemi dans sa marche aventureuse n'a fait encore que tourner nos positions dont les plus importantes restent toujours debout.

Nous avons de vastes étendues et d'espace à notre disposition et nous saurons disputer pied-à-pied notre territoire à l'ennemi, lui infliger des pertes cruelles et le chasser au délà de nos frontières comme nous venons de le faire en Asie. Nous espérons fermement de le vaincre définitivement, de même que les Espagnols ont vaincu les armées victorieuses de Napoléon I, de même que les Circassiens ont tenu en échec pendant un demi siècle les forces de la Russie. Le célèbre siége de Saragosse aura ses pendants nombreux en Turquie. Kars a déjà prouvé toute l'énergie de la résistence Ottomane.

Nos soldats se battent surtout pour la religion, l'indépendence, l'intégrité de leur patrie, menacées par une agression aussi injuste que téméraire. Chaque soldat Ottoman a la conscience, la conviction intime qu'il se bat pour défendre aussi bien ses foyers que sa religion et les droits de son souverain, et ce sentiment suffit pour redoubler son ardeur et sa bravoure naturelles.

Je n'ai pas besoin de vous dire que chaque Musulman est né soldat; combattre contre ceux qui nous attaquent, c'est non seulement un devoir civique comme dans les autres pays, c'est surtout un devoir sacré prescrit par la religion.

Ce sont là des qualités qui à l'aveu de tous les hommes compétents rendent une supériorité incontestable aux soldats Turcs, qui supportent toutes les privations et les fatigues écrasantes pour une armée Européenne.

Tout le monde sait que nous n'avons pas provoqué cette guerre que nous déplorons. Nous aurions même voulu l'éviter, si notre ennemi, par ses exigences injustes, ne nous avait rendu tout arrangement impossible. Ne tenant aucun compte des réformes larges et libérales que nous avons inaugurées, et dont nous avions

entrepris l'application loyale et complète, il a voulu nous imposer des conditions qui ne tendaient à rien moins qu'à notre destruction.

Et quand nous n'avons pas voulu nous y soumettre il a déclaré la guerre contre nous, sous des prétextes en apparence humanitaires et généreux, mais dont le fond n'était que la même politique d'ambition que depuis 150 ans cherche à déboucher vers le bassin de la Méditerranée, en conquérant des positions uniques au monde qui sont aujourd'hui au pouvoir non agressif des Osmanlis.

Il y a eu des gens qui avaient cru que dans cette guerre où se trouvent aussi engagés les intérêts de premier ordre de l'Europe, nous aurions à notre côté au moins une ou deux Puissances alliées, et notamment l'Angleterre, dont la politique traditionnelle avait attaché en tout temps une importance capitale au maintien de l'indépendance et de l'intégrité de l'Empire Ottoman.

L'Angleterre n'avait-elle pas refusé son adhésion au Memorandum de Berlin, qui constituait une immixion contraire aux Traités dans les affaires intérieures de Turquie? N'avait-elle pas expédié une escadre à Bésica lorsque les premiers nuages assombrissaient l'horizon politique?

Le Premier Ministre de Sa Majesté la Reine, dans le discours qu'il avait prononcé au banquet du Lord Mayor, n'avait-il pas hautement parlé des immenses ressources de l'Angleterre pour soutenir au besoin une cause juste? N'a-t-il pas renouvelé et confirmé ces mêmes déclarations dans le discours qu'il a prononcé à la séance de la Chambre des Lords du 20 Février, 1877, discours dans lequel, après avoir dit que le Cabinet Britannique avait rejeté le Memorandum de Berlin par ce que ce document devait évidemment et inévitablement conduire à l'occupation militaire de la Turquie d'Europe, à laquelle l'Angleterre avait toujours résisté avec succès, il s'exprimait en faisant allusion à son discours de Guildhall en ces termes :—

"J'avais dit que la politique de l'Angleterre est une politique de paix, qu'il n'y avait de pays qui fit de la paix aussi essentiellement la base de sa politique; que nous ne convoitions l'annexation d'aucune ville ou province, mais j'avais dit aussi que si nous avions de bonnes raisons pour faire la guerre, que s'il y en avait une dans laquelle nous serions malheureusement engagés, nous la ferions avec la détermination de la continuer jusqu'à ce que justice fut faite, telles étaient les observations que j'avais faites au Guildhall et que je fais maintenant devant la Chambre des Lords; j'adhère complètement à ces opinions." Est-ce qu'on pouvait s'imaginer au point de vue politique une cause plus juste que le maintien des Traités internationaux ouvertement violés par la Russie?

Par toutes ces manifestations et déclarations solennelles qui encourageaient la Turquie à la résistance contre la Russie, l'Angleterre n'a-t-elle pas assumé devant l'opinion publique et devant l'histoire une bonne part de la responsabilité de la guerre actuelle? Toutefois la Turquie convaincue de la justice de sa cause, se préparait à faire face à toutes les éventualités, et à se défendre, fût elle-même seule, contre une Puissance qui ne cessait de la parceler, de la poursuivre de sa haine implacable. Elle était persuadée que ses véritables intérêts consistaient à compter sur elle-même et non pas sur l'appui éventuel d'une Puissance étrangère quelque soit le degré de son amitié et de son désintéressement.

A cet effet, elle s'est adressée au patriotisme de ses populations, qui ont répondu chaleureusement à son appel. On la croyait dénuée de ressources, et pourtant, grâce aux sacrifices qu'elle s'est imposée et qu'elle s'imposera encore, elle a su équiper une nombreuse armée, qui à l'heure actuelle soutient vaillamment la lutte contre l'envahissement de l'ennemi et les insurrections qu'il a suscitées. Décidée de vaincre ou de tomber avec honneur, la Turquie aurait même raisons de considérer comme inopportune toute assistance étrangère, qui lui imposerait peut-être dans un avenir plus ou moins éloigné des concessions non moins onéreuses que la victoire de l'ennemi.

Je crois exprimer exactement l'opinion du pays, en déclarant que dans cette lutte de vie ou de mort, dans cette œuvre de défense nationale, nous n'avons pas besoin d'alliés, nous n'implorons la co-opération de quelque Puissance que ce soit. Ce n'est pas que nous n'attachions un grand prix aux sympathies et à l'assistance bienveillante de l'Europe, mais il nous sera permis sans doute d'avoir l'ambition légitime de défendre l'indépendance et l'intégrité de notre patrie par nos propres forces.

Si nous succombions, nous aimerions mieux conclure une paix séparée avec le vainqueur, une paix qui nous délivrerait au moins de nos sauveurs. N'ayant rien à espérer de l'Europe, nous n'aurions plus aucune dette de reconnaissance à lui payer, et naturellement nous ne chercherions qu'à faire la paix aussi avantageusement que possible avec la Russie sans nous préoccuper d'avantage des intérêts Européens. Notre

conduite ne serait cependant dictée d'aucun sentiment d'amertume pour avoir été abandonnés par l'Europe, mais étant donnée notre situation, il nous serait impossible d'agir autrement, et l'Europe recueillerait le fruit de sa politique égoïste si les intérêts de la civilisation en Orient tombaient dans les plus graves périls.

Si, au contraire, nous sortions vainqueur de la lutte, comme nous en avons le ferme espoir, nous ne chercherons aucun avantage exclusif, et tout en défendant nos droits inaliénables nous défendrions aussi les intérêts de l'Europe, et surtout ceux de l'Angleterre, qui court le plus de risque par la marche en avant des armées Russes.

Mais pour le service que nous aurions ainsi rendu à l'Europe par nos armes, et par nos sacrifices considérables, nous ne lui demanderions aucune compensation si ce n'est de maintenir complètement notre indépendance et notre intégrité, garanties par les Traités.

Ce n'est pas loyalement par les armes que la Russie nous combat. Après avoir cherché perfidement à nous ruiner par des insurrections, elle permet dans les pays occupés par ses troupes des atrocités et des cruautés inouïes.

La presse impartiale a enregistré ces horreurs et le Gouvernement Ottoman a attiré à plusieurs reprises l'attention de l'Europe sur les actes odieux des Russes.

Toutefois cette Europe humanitaire, qui a la prétention d'être un foyer de civilisation, n'a rien fait pour empêcher les Russes, et leurs protégés les insurgés Bulgares, d'exterminer et de piller les Musulmans.

Elle n'a pas même infligé un blâme sévère sur les outrages que les Russes et les Bulgares commettent journellement au détriment des populations Musulmanes inoffensives.

Le système d'autonomie inventé par la diplomatie Russe est tout simplement l'extension déguisée de la domination Muscovite.

C'est ainsi que la Russie compte ouvrir pour elle les Détroits du Bosphore et des Dardanelles, qui ne seraient plus entre les mains de la Turquie affaiblée qu'une voie libre pour laisser passer les flottes Muscovites menaçant à chaque instant les intérêts vitaux de l'Europe.

L'autonomie de ses provinces Européennes étant pour la Turquie égale à leur perte, elle ne pourrait plus lutter avec succès contre les envahissements de son voisin du Nord, qui aurait alors pour lui la force et le prestige.

La foi des Traités n'existerait plus pour une Puissance dont on connaît déjà le respect pour le droit international et les engagements solennels.

L'ambition Muscovite n'aurait plus de bornes par suite de l'indifférence dont l'Europe aurait fait preuve pour le maintien des Traités et de l'équilibre politique.

Je prie, &c.

Le Directeur du Journal Turc "Vakit,"
(Signé) D. PHILIPPE.

P.S.—Après avoir écrit cette lettre, je viens de lire la déclaration faite par Lord Beaconsfield dans la séance du 9 Août de la Chambre des Lords, déclaration qui n'a pas manqué de produire ici une impression pénible.

Je crois donc devoir soumettre aussi à votre Excellence quelques observations à ce sujet. Les Ottomans constatent avec regret que les considérations qui avaient fait longtemps l'essence même de la politique des hommes d'Etat Anglais, et que les actes récents du Ministère Britannique semblaient faire prévaloir, sont aujourd'hui tout-à-fait méconnues. En effet, il serait difficile de réconcilier les opinions émises dans le nouveau discours de Lord Beaconsfield avec ses précédentes affirmations. Dans le nouveau discours il n'est nullement question de résister à l'occupation Russe des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe ni de faire la guerre dans l'intérêt de la justice et du maintien des Traités. Il déclare purement et simplement que l'Angleterre restera neutre tant que la Russie respectera les Dardanelles et Constantinople, le Canal de Suez, et le Golf Persique.

Mais est-il possible de supposer que les Dardanelles et Constantinople seront en sureté si la Russie parvenait à établir des Etats Sclaves autonomes qui agiraient sous les instructions reçues de St. Pétersbourg?

N'est-il pas évident que la Bulgarie autonome proposée par la Russie et devenue de fait une province Russe, sera étendue de la rive droite du Danube, jusqu'au versant méridional des Balkans et à la plaine de Philippopolis, que, par conséquent, dans une prochaine guerre les troupes Russes seront dans ce pays comme chez elles et le cœur même de l'Empire serait fatalement exposé aux attaques de l'ennemi?

Comment les Dardanelles et Constantinople pourront-ils être respectés lorsque l'Empire serait privé de ses lignes de défense naturelles, et lorsqu'il sera formé un

Etat autonome qui sera d'autant plus un instrument aveugle entre les mains de la Russie que l'on cherche dès aujourd'hui à en éliminer par des mesures de violence et de spoliation l'élément Musulman ?

N'est-il pas inconséquent de vouloir défendre les Dardanelles et Constantinople, en laissant à la Russie s'emparer des clefs de ces deux positions ?

Je ne crois pas nécessaire de parler du Canal de Suez et du Golfe Persique parce qu'ils ne sont pas actuellement menacés. En finissant cette lettre déjà trop longue, je dois dire encore que l'opinion publique Ottomane ne voit d'autre solution aux redoutables problèmes dont je viens de parler que dans la victoire des armes Ottomanes ; la nation se résignera à tous les sacrifices pour vaincre, et si par malheur le sort ne lui était pas favorable, pour sauver au moins son honneur.

Dans l'un et dans l'autre cas, nos anciens amis et alliés auront peut-être quelque chose à regretter mais il sera sans doute trop tard.

D. P.

No. 386.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 962.)

My Lord,

Therapia, August 20, 1877.

THE accounts that reach me from all sides on the subject of the shocking excesses committed by the Circassian irregular troops, have induced me to bring the matter once more to the serious attention of the Porte, and to urge upon it the urgent necessity of adopting immediate measures to put a stop to them. I directed Mr. Sandison to read the inclosed Memorandum on the subject to the Grand Vizier or to Server Pasha. He did so to the former last Saturday, and received from his Highness a favourable reply, which he has embodied in a report to me that I have the honour to forward to your Lordship.

I have also brought, indirectly, the conduct of the Circassians to the notice of the Sultan. His Majesty expressed his surprize at hearing that they had been guilty of outrages on the defenceless Christians, and declared that he had given the strictest orders that no Bulgarian should be killed, unless when taken with arms in his hand, and in battle. His Majesty added that he would repeat these orders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 386.

Memorandum by Mr. Layard to Mr. Sandison.

MR. LAYARD ventures, in the spirit of friendship and with an earnest desire to promote the true interests of the Porte, to call the attention of the Grand Vizier, or, in case Mr. Sandison should be unable to see his Highness, of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the conduct of the Circassian irregular troops who accompany the Turkish armies, and are permitted to rove about almost without check in the Turkish provinces. Their proceedings are such as to bring the utmost discredit upon the Ottoman Government, and to alienate from it the sympathy of all Europe.

Mr. Layard has, with the greatest pain and regret, found himself under the necessity of reporting this to Her Majesty's Government, as the accounts come to him from official as well as other sources of undoubted authority. These miscreants plunder, burn, and massacre in all directions with almost entire impunity. The Turkish and other military authorities seem unable or unwilling to punish or control them.

The Christians are their principal victims. An English gentleman, who is just arrived from the army of Suleiman Pasha, who has rendered and is rendering very important services to Turkey, and whose evidence is unimpeachable, states that scarcely a village in some of the richest districts of Roumelia has been spared by these marauders. When the villages, whether Turkish or Christian, have been abandoned, they have been set fire to and totally destroyed. If they have still been inhabited by Christians, the population has been massacred in cold blood, or has been driven out, and their houses and property burnt and destroyed.

In consequence of these shocking acts of wanton cruelty and devastation, more shocking because they are directed, not against an enemy, but against the subjects of the Sultan, the Vilayet of Adrianople is filled with refugees in the utmost misery and destitution.

They cannot be sent back to their homes, as their villages have been utterly destroyed by the Circassians.

The winter is coming on, and they will perish from cold and want, or must be maintained by the Turkish Government.

Moreover, should the Turkish armies be under the necessity of going into winter quarters, the towns and villages which might have afforded them shelter are no longer available for this purpose.

That the state of things that Mr. Layard has described should exist is the more deplorable as, from the reports which he has received from all quarters, he has learnt with the greatest satisfaction that the conduct of the Ottoman authorities and regular troops, and of the Turkish population, has been admirable, and such as to entitle them to the highest respect.

Mr. Layard begs to call the most earnest attention of his Highness the Grand Vizier and of his Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the observations that he has ventured to make, in the conviction that the facts that he has stated have only to be known to them in order that measures may be at once taken to put an end to the proceedings of the Circassians, and to punish those who have been guilty of the outrages described.

Mr. Layard would further venture to suggest that trustworthy Commissioners should be sent to inquire into the matter, and that the Circassian Chiefs should be made personally responsible for the conduct of their followers, and that the most guilty of them should be punished with the utmost severity.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

August 18, 1877.

Inclosure 2 in No. 386.

Mr. Sandison to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Therapia, August 20, 1877.

IN accordance with your Excellency's directions, I duly called the Grand Vizier's serious attention to the excesses of the Circassian irregulars as stated in your instructions of the 18th instant, which I read out to His Highness as well as to the Foreign Minister.

His Highness, whilst admitting to a certain extent the existence of these excesses, was inclined to justify them in most instances as being the natural consequence of the conduct of the Bulgarians themselves towards the Mussulman population.

In the present state of the Balkans, where the invaders have been the first to set the example of indiscriminate massacre without the slightest regard either to age or sex, it was hardly possible, he thought, to expect from the Circassians a more humane treatment of the inoffensive Bulgarians, especially when hundreds of mutilated Mussulman men and women appeal to them for protection, and justly call out for retaliation.

Then again, most of the Bulgarian villages, which have been either burnt or pillaged by the Circassians, having been found in a state of open rebellion, it became a matter of extreme difficulty for the Government to keep them under proper control or to enforce in such cases the strict observance of the rules of war.

The Government, however, was but too anxious to prevent these excesses ; and fully entering into the spirit of your Excellency's friendly representations on the subject, the Porte, he said, would spare no effort in trying to put a stop to the state of things which had been brought under his notice. He would accordingly act on your Excellency's suggestion of appointing a High Commission, who would be directed to make proper inquiry into the excesses complained of, and to punish such of the Circassian Chiefs as might be made responsible for them. But such a Commissioner, he considered, should be one who enjoyed the confidence not of the Government alone, but of England too, and he could, under the circumstances, make no better selection than Ahmet Vefyk Pasha, who, it is hoped, may be induced to undertake this mission. Server Pasha, whom I saw again after my interview with the Grand Vizier, gave me, I should almost say, the impression of an apologist of the Circassian irregulars. He

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maintained throughout the conversation, that though they had plundering propensities, they had never been considered as a blood-thirsty race, notwithstanding which, there was no crime, no act of atrocity, which, as a rule, was not immediately laid to their charge.

In fact, there was a general disposition to paint them blacker than they are, so much so, that even the atrocities and robberies perpetrated by the Bulgarians themselves under cover of the Circassian dress, have likewise been attributed to the Circassian irregulars. There was positive information, he added, that the device had been resorted to even by Armenians in Armenia.

His Excellency then went on to say that he could already foresee the consequences of the existing state of things in the Balkans, which, at no distant period, would furnish a fresh pretext for a general outcry in Europe against Turkish atrocities only without any proper notice being taken by the European Governments of the Russo-Bulgarian atrocities which continue to be practised upon the helpless and inoffensive part of the Mohammedan population.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 387.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 963.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1877.*

M. CHRISTICH, the Servian Agent, called upon me this morning to communicate to me the substance of a telegram from M. Ristich, which he had read, before seeing me, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. M. Ristich gave in it assurances that there was no intention on the part of Russia to send any troops through Servian territory, that Servia had no desire to attack Turkey, and that no military preparations whatever had been made on the Turkish frontier which ought to cause any anxiety to the Porte. M. Ristich complained, with some acrimony, of the constant demand of the Porte for explanations from Servia, founded upon idle rumours, to which no weight ought to be attached. Server Pasha, M. Christich informed me, after listening to M. Ristich's assurances, observed that they were not sufficient, and that the Turkish Government was under the necessity of asking for a distinct and definite explanation as to what Servia's policy in the present war was to be, and that such an explanation alone could satisfy the Porte. M. Christich replied that he thought it would be desirable not to put such a question, as it would cause irritation in Servia against the Porte. But as Server Pasha appeared to insist upon his doing so, he should be under the necessity of submitting it to his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 388.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 964.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1877.*

I HAVE had an opportunity of talking to-day with an English physician who is just returned from Batoum and Circassia, where he accompanied the Turkish troops. He describes the expedition to Soukhoum Kaleh, and other places on the Circassian coast, as having failed in consequence of the incapacity and misconduct of the two Turkish Generals, Fuzli and Hussein Vasif Pashas. They ill-treated and irritated many of the Abkhas and Circassian Chiefs, who, consequently, abandoned the Turkish cause in disgust. These officers were, moreover, constantly from excesses in a condition to be unable to command the forces under them. Had it not been for their bad conduct, my informant believes that very important results might have ensued from the expedition.

My informant stated that the Turkish troops at Batoum are in excellent condition, and fight with the greatest courage and determination. The Russians, he said, are in great terror of them, and would never attempt to stand before them if it were not for the Russian artillery, of which he speaks very highly. The Turkish regulars, he assured me, do not commit cruelties upon the enemy, or slay the wounded

on the field of battle; but the irregulars spare no one, and commit terrible excesses. He attributes the want of activity of the Turkish armies, and their inability to follow up their victories, to the complete want of transport.

My informant gave me a shocking description of the cruel treatment experienced by the Mussulman tribes of the Caucasus from the Russians. Districts suspected of being favourable to the Turks have been completely devastated, and their inhabitants, in many instances, slaughtered, or removed to distant places. Even before the war the Russians appear to have terribly oppressed and ill-treated these Mahommedan tribes, endeavouring to make them renounce their faith and adopt Christianity. My informant stated that he had seen a number of Abkhas, women and children, who had crosses indelibly branded on their breasts by the Russians, and that he knew of a case in which a Russian soldier had slain with a sword a child at the breast of its mother, who was shockingly wounded at the same time, because she had refused to go to church. I merely repeat the statements made to me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 389.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 29.)

(No. 965.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 20, 1877.*

SERVER PASHA, whom I saw to-day at his usual weekly reception, informed me that he was about to send a telegram to Musurus Pasha to instruct him to speak to your Lordship about Greece.

His Excellency said that he desired to appeal on this subject to England not as a neutral Power, but as one of the protecting Powers, which made a great difference.

From trustworthy information received from Athens, he was convinced that Greece would before long attack Turkey.

Preparations on a large scale were being made for this object.

Large supplies of arms were being obtained, the money for part of which came from Russian sources.

The Greek Government, in violation of the law and the Constitution, were inviting subjects of the Porte across the frontier and enrolling them for service against Turkey.

Would the protecting Powers, his Excellency asked, permit Greece to make a wanton agression on Turkey?

The Porte had always respected its Treaties with Greece, and had given her no cause of complaint or offence, yet she was at this moment seeking a pretext for fixing a quarrel upon Turkey; and he was informed that M. Condourioti was engaged for this purpose in getting up a case against the Turkish Government on account of Greeks alleged to have been killed at Kavarna.

The occurrences at that village had been magnified into a massacre of the Greeks, and public opinion in Greece had been excited by the publication of the most untruthful accounts of them. This had been done designedly by the Hellenic Government.

His Excellency went on to say that he had that morning spoken on the matter to M. Condourioti, who had given him the usual vague assurances that Greece had no intention of attacking Turkey. Could he, his Excellency asked, place any reliance upon them in the face of facts which were notorious to the whole world?

Server Pasha observed that he had too much trust and confidence in the justice and good faith of England to believe that she would permit Greece to pursue a policy which was a violation of rights and Treaties, and of the conditions upon which the protection of England and other Powers had been extended to her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 390.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 966.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 20, 1877.

I HAVE received to-day from Mr. Vice-Consul Brophy copies of several telegrams sent to me from various parts of his district, relating to the dreadful excesses committed by Circassians, Bashi-Bazouks and Bulgarians in a number of villages, which have been entirely destroyed. I inclose a copy of the last of these telegrams, dated the 8th instant, which will afford further proof of the shocking manner in which this war of extermination is carried on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 390.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Layard.

(Translated from the Turkish.)
(Telegraphic.) *Slimnia, August* 8, 1877.

HAVING returned from Yeni-Zaghra, where I have examined into certain reports of excesses committed by Bulgarians upon Mussulmans, I have every reason to believe that between Eski-Zaghra and Yeni-Zaghra, the Bulgarians have been guilty of the greatest cruelties, which, in almost every instance, seem to have been committed at the instigation of Cossacks.

The Government, in consequences of these outrages, has armed all the Mussulman population of Slimnia and its vicinity.

At the same time the Mussulmans, both Turks and Circassians, plunder and murder Bulgarians wholesale and retail. On the road from Slimnia to Yeni-Zaghra I saw the corpses of five Bulgarians, and on my way home met about 300 women, accompanied by only two men, from the villages of Caradja-Mourath, Yeni-Mahallé, and Turkmen, who were fleeing to the mountains, and who told me that their villages had been burnt that day, and the men killed.

If reprisals continue, this war, instead of being one between two nations, will degenerate into massacres of men, women, and children of both religions, and Roumelia will be depopulated, and made a desert.

The Russians, in spite of their previous protestations, appear to wish to force the Bulgarians into the commission of acts which will compromise them so deeply as to oblige them to join Turkey's enemy.

His Excellency the Field-Marshal Suleiman Pasha, whom I left near Yeni-Zaghra, requests me to state to your Excellency his opinion (which I fully share) that unless the Western Powers interfere to prevent Russia exciting the passions of the Slavonic Rayahs, and by this interference check the excesses committed by Bashi-Bazouks and Circassians, such reprisals will necessarily take place as will result, to use your Excellency's own words, "in the extermination of every Mussulman and every Christian in Roumelia."

No. 391.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 967.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1877.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BROPHY states to me, in a private letter dated the 12th instant, that he has not a shadow of a doubt a horrible massacre of the Mussulman population was perpetrated at Bayuklamak by the Bulgarians, whether aided or not by the Cossacks does not appear. He obtained evidence that the Bulgarians put about eighty men and women into a straw shed and burnt them alive, shooting or cutting down those who attempted to escape. "Six, however," he writes, "are supposed to have succeeded in getting away, and of these I saw two men, one wounded and apparently dying. The Turkish women came round my horse as I mounted to go, kissing my hands and knees, exclaiming that 'no one had asked them

what they had suffered till I came,' and sobbing and wailing for their murdered sons and daughters."

Mr. Brophy gives me a shocking description of the excesses committed by the Circassians and Bashi-Bazouks in revenge for the atrocities perpetrated by the Bulgarians on the Mahommedan population. He says that the districts to the west of Burgas are laid waste. He estimates the number of villages which have escaped utter destruction and may still be inhabited as only one out of fifteen. "The Circassians," he says "have driven off more than 90 per cent. of the cattle and sheep; a quarter of the harvest in the districts of Slimnia, Yamboli, and Yeni-Zaghra is rotting upon the ground uncut, and not 1 per cent. out of the rest has been carried, nor will it be, as the oxen and horses have been carried off. Such is a small portion of the benefits which Russia has undertaken in this war to confer upon the populations of Turkey."

Mr. Brophy very much fears that all the horrors he has described will, before long, be enacted in the neighbourhood of Bourgas, Aidos, Achiolo, and Missuria. "God help all the poor peasants, Turks and Rayahs" (Christians), he exclaims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 392.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 969. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a further report on the policy of Austria, submitted to the Sultan and Grand Vizier by the same person whose previous communications on the subject I have forwarded to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 392.

Report on the Policy of Austria.

(Confidentielle.) *Vienne, le* 10 *Août*, 1877.

L'ENTREVUE d'Ischl—je tiens mes informations d'une source immédiate—a été remplie de conversations militaires. L'Empereur François-Joseph, content de voir une autre grande Puissance également battue comme l'Autriche l'a été en 1859 et 1866, et l'Empereur Guillaume, le grand capitaine par excellence, croyant en savoir plus long que personne, ne pouvaient en finir pour se communiquer leurs observations réciproques sur les graves fautes stratégiques et tactiques commises par l'armée de leur confrère l'Empereur de Russie. Cette préoccupation n'a pas empêché l'Empereur d'Allemagne d'exprimer l'espoir que l'Empereur d'Autriche ne profitera pas de ces fautes commises par la Russie; mais comme il n'est pas allé plus loin dans cet ordre d'idées et que l'Empereur d'Autriche ne pense nullement à s'attaquer à la Russie, l'on n'avait besoin de prolonger la conversation à ce sujet. L'Empereur d'Autriche s'est payé ensuite le plaisir de faire part à son interlocuteur de tous les détails sur la situation dans laquelle se trouve actuellement l'armée Russe en Bulgarie, qu'il venait de recevoir par l'entremise de son Attaché Militaire au quartier-général Russe, M. de Bechtolsheim.

Il lui a dit entre autres que le pont de Sistova est si peu solide qu'il ne peut pas porter des canons de position, dont il se suit que les Russes n'en ont pas du tout pour assiéger les forteresses; même les pièces de 20 centimètres font trembler ce pont d'un bout à l'autre. Il lui a dit aussi que le quartier-général Russe a défendu à l'armée Roumaine de se servir de ce pont pour s'en aller dans son pays, ce qui fait le comble de ses désirs, en lui disant de s'en aller comme elle est venue, c'est-à-dire en bateaux à vapeur, &c.

Les deux interlocuteurs brodaient du reste leurs conversations sur cette conviction que la Russie pourra bien être obligée à prolonger la campagne jusqu'à l'année

prochaine, mais qu'elle ne saura la finir que par anéantir la Turquie et occasioner son partage.

Ainsi l'entrevue d'Ischl n'a produit aucun changement ni dans les rapports réciproques, ni dans la position que garde l'Autriche vis-à-vis de la guerre d'Orient. C'est ce que je vous ai dit à l'avance dans ma lettre d'il y a huit jours.

La position de M. Andrassy, je vous prie de me le croire, est plus forte que jamais. Grâce à des incidents que je n'ai pas pu apprendre, il paraît avoir gagné un tel ascendant sur l'Empereur qu'il se croit omnipotent. Cela m'est confirmé par des personnes de la Cour qui ne comptent pas parmi ses partisans. D'un autre côté un de ses rares amis intimes, avec lequel il parle politique, me fait des ouvertures suivantes sur ses idées actuelles. M. Andrassy est décidé de ne rien entreprendre qui puisse gêner l'action militaire de la Russie. Au contraire il manifestera continuellement des sentiments les plus sympathiques pour elle. Il croit, lui aussi, que la Russie arrivera, tôt ou tard, à battre la Turquie. Si elle y réussit "tant mieux" se dit notre Ministre, parce qu'il désire que la question d'Orient fut vidée maintenant à fond. Mais il est décidé en même temps à n'admettre, ni que la Russie annexât un pouce de territoire Turc en Europe, ni qu'elle organisât les provinces Slaves de la Turquie en Etats dépendants de la suprématie Russe. Aussi est-il décidé, et c'est ce qu'il dit de haute voix, dans le cas que la Russie mettrait la main à faire l'un ou l'autre, à lui faire la guerre.

Je puis vous assurer que M. Andrassy cherche depuis huit à quinze jours à établir des rapports amicaux, voir même des relations intimes, entre l'Autriche et la France, et il le fait à l'insu de l'Empereur. Or, comme il faisait toujours très bon marché de la France, en lui prodiguant même très souvent des petites avanies pour en récolter des remerciments de la part de M. Bismarck, son rapprochement actuel de la France, ou notamment ce que je viens de dire plus haut, ne peut que trahir son arrière pensée de se servir de la France comme contre poids contre la Prusse en cas qu'il ferait en effet la guerre à la Russie, et que la Prusse ferait mine de s'y opposer.

A ma question adressée au dit ami ce qu'en dirait l'Empereur, ce monsieur, qui connait l'Empereur mieux que M. Andrassy, m'a répondu verbalement: "l'Empereur s'est déjà parfaitement reposé de la guerre de 1866 pour se ruer dans une nouvelle enterprise et surtout dans une enterprise qui lui fournirait l'occasion de faire voir toute son armée et de faire en même temps une niche à la Prusse."

Comment et de quelle façon M. Andrassy pense-t-il mettre d'accord son désir d'anéantir la Turquie avec l'idée de faire la guerre à la Russie, si elle voulait s'emparer de telle partie des territoires Turcs, ce n'est pas bien facile à deviner. L'on serait presque tenté à supposer qu'il pense à prendre tout ce qui serait conquis par la Russie. Ce serait une idée bien hardie; mais étourdi qu'il est toujours et entreprenant qu'il est devenu depuis quelques jours il en est bien capable.

Cependant il est évident que tous les calculs de M. Andrassy n'ont pour le moment que la valeur des vaines conjectures. Car d'abord la Russie est encore passablement loin de vaincre la Turquie; au contraire il y a tout lieu d'espérer que c'est la Russie qui sera battue en Bulgarie. Et puis il est plus que probable que lors qu'elle aura perdu encore une bataille notable il y aura des troubles dans ses propres pays.

Le mouvement national en Pologne s'anime doucement mais décidemment. Jusqu'à présent on y voit quatre courants différants:—

1. Le parti de Cracovie, qui est Russe et qui a ses représentants à la tête des pouvoirs de la Galicie.

2. Le parti patriotique modéré, qui voudrait amener l'Autriche à marcher contre la Russie et qui est principalement représenté en conférence à Vienne.

3. La faction patriotique, un peu plus avancée, qui marcherait aussi avec l'Autriche mais n'y tient pas absolument, et qui a mis en scène le meeting à Lemberg malgré la défense du Gouvernement; et,

4. Le parti radical, qui fait fi de l'Autriche et de tous les conférenciers et qui forme déjà des comités secrets pour créer un pouvoir révolutionnaire souterrain l'instar de celui de 1863.

Des personnes qui ont des positions en rapport avec cette entreprise font maintenant des efforts à réunir les trois derniers partis en un seul, et il y a tout lieu de supposer qu'elles y réussiront, mais il est tout de même à prévoir que dans ce grand parti fusionné ce sera tout de même le parti radical qui aura le dessus, ce qui dans la situation actuelle n'est pas précisément désirable, vu que ce parti ne gouverne que par la terreur et qu'il va tout droitement à la révolution.

La Diète de la Galicie a été ouverte hier à Lemberg par un discours très remarquable de Maréchal le Comte Wodzicki, un des chefs du parti Russe. Ce discours est réactionnaire d'un bout à l'autre et il se défend contre toute manifestation au sujet de la question d'Orient. Le parti conservateur a cependent fait tout de même une motion de voter une adresse à l'Empereur, évidemment dans le but de s'en emparer de la rédaction afin de la faire si modérée que possible. Il y aura donc une lutte à ce sujet au sein de la Diète, et comme les passions sont déjà reveillées d'un côté et de l'autre il faut s'attendre à des scènes tapageuses.

Un agitateur Polonais arrivé directement de Varsovie, qui est venu me voir hier, m'a dit que la population Polonaise sous le Gouvernement Russe est excessivement irritée. Les derniers recrutements l'ont mis hors de son assiette. Beaucoup de jeunes gens se sauvent et se cachent dans les forêts. Si la Russie perd encore une grande bataille en Bulgarie il est plus que probable que la population du Royaume de Pologne, qui est presque complètement dégarni de troupes, prendra une position menaçante pour le Gouvernement. Les comités secrets qui fonctionnent dans les villes principales sont en contact continuel avec des comités pareils des révolutionnaires Russes, qui, eux aussi, se proposent à éclater contre le Gouvernement si la Russie est battue en Bulgarie. Il est convenu entre les révolutionnaires des deux pays que la Russie éclatera la première, pour que le Gouvernement ne puisse pas tourner les patriotes Russes contre la Pologne, comme il l'a fait en 1863; mais il est inutile de s'appésantir sur des décisions pareilles, tous les événements de cette nature étant complètement incalculables.

Mardi dernier mes amis qui sont dans l'intimité de Midhat Pacha m'ont déterminé à aller présenter mes hommages à son Altesse. Midhat Pacha m'a parfaitement reçu et nous avons causé une demie-heure sur la situation.

J'apprends à la dernière heure que le Comte Potoski, le Gouverneur de la Galicie, y stimulé par le parti de Cracovie, vient de faire effectuer plusieurs arrestations à Lemberg et à Cracovie. Les personnes qui ont été écrouées sont censées des agitations patriotiques.

No. 393.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 970.)

My Lord, *Therapia, August* 21, 1877.

THE German Ambassador has remonstrated with the Porte, in pursuance of instructions from his Government, on the subject of the alleged violation by the Turkish troops of the Convention of Geneva. His Excellency brought to the notice of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the statements of the Russian military authorities that in the Turkish positions taken in the Shipka Pass there were found a number of heads of Russian soldiers, who were believed to have been decapitated after they had fallen into the hands of the Turkish troops. Prince Reuss further submitted to Server Pasha that, as no wounded Russians were found alive on the battle-field at Plevna, it was to be inferred that they had been put to death after the Russian army had retired. These facts, his Excellency said, had made a most painful impression upon the Emperor of Germany, and he had been directed to call the serious attention of the Turkish Government to the infraction of the Convention of Geneva, to which Turkey herself was a party.

Server Pasha replied that he could not admit that the accusations against the Turkish soldiers were true; but that he would nevertheless at once direct an investigation to be made into the matter.

Prince Reuss subsequently observed to me that he was quite indifferent as to the result of any inquiries, as it would in no way affect his opinion or that of his Government as to what had occurred, of which proof was furnished by Russian officers and by some newspaper correspondents who were witnesses of the cruelties committed by the Turks on Russian prisoners in the Shipka Pass.

Although the shocking treatment to which the Russian prisoners and wounded are alleged to have been subjected is deeply to be deplored and to be reprobated, it can scarcely be denied that there is some justice in the remark made to me by Server Pasha that this war is very different in character from other wars, and that Europe can scarcely be surprised if cruel deeds are committed in it by the Turks. Would it not be the case in any country, even the most civilized, his Excellency asked, if it were invaded by a foreign foe without cause, and if its inhabitants saw their towns and villages burnt and destroyed, their fields laid waste, and their wives and children

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butchered in cold blood, and were convinced that the object of the invader was their extermination? It would be beyond the power of any authority, his Excellency declared, to restrain them from committing acts of retaliation and revenge.

If I remember rightly, when representations were made to the Russian authorities during the war in the Crimea on the subject of the massacre of our wounded soldiers on the battle-field, it was excused by them on the ground that the Russian troops were impelled by religious zeal and enthusiasm. Although no one could excuse such inhuman and barbarous proceedings on the part of the Turkish soldiers, it must not be forgotten that, in addition to being impelled by religious zeal and enthusiasm, they are resisting and resenting a wanton invasion, which is laying waste their country, and is waged, in their opinion, for the extermination of the Mussulman population.

I have represented to Server Pasha very strongly the importance of taking every possible measure to prevent the recurrence of such acts as the Russians allege to have been committed by the Turkish soldiers. Before Prince Reuss had spoken on the subject to his Excellency I had directed Mr. Saudison to call the attention of the Grand Vizier to the statements published in the newspapers as to the decapitation of the Russian dead, and to urge his Highness to institute an immediate inquiry into their truth. The Commander of the small force which defended the Shipka Pass is, I believe, still at Philippopolis, and he ought to be examined before it is too late.

Prince Reuss states there can be no doubt that the cruelties practised upon the Russian wounded at Shipka are to be attributed to the Turkish regular troops, and not to Bashi-Bazouks or Circassians.

This is the only case that has come to my knowledge of alleged decapitation of the Russian dead by the Turks during this war. I will not venture to say that it did not take place, but I am loth to believe that it did. The Montenegrins, it is well known, are in the habit of decapitating the killed in battle, and the Turks in their wars with them have occasionally been guilty of the same barbarous act; but the Porte and the Turkish commanders issued the most stringent and explicit orders against this inhuman practice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 394.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 29.*)

(No. 973.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Major-General Sir A. Kemball, forwarding copy of the instructions given by him to Captain M'Calmont with regard to the atrocities committed by the Kurds at Bayazid.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 394.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Head-quarters Camp, near Hajiveli, July 31, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency copy of an instruction (with inclosure) which I have addressed to Captain M'Calmont when forwarding to that officer Mr. Consul Zohrab's report to Lord Derby No. 61, dated the 26th instant. This report was privately communicated to me by Mr. Zohrab in reply to my request for information relating to the alleged Kurdish atrocities at Bayazid, such information, owing to the want of general communication between this camp and the Turkish right wing being only accessible to me on the spot through channels in which I could not place implicit confidence. I am bound to admit, however, that the material facts reported by Mr. Zohrab differ, in no degree, from those elicited from Muktar Pasha when, some time after the event, the rumours which reached camp prompted me to question his Excellency on the subject. His Excellency, sharing my abhorrence of the

atrocious deeds perpetrated by the Kurds, and fully appreciating their consequences, assured me that he had at once ordered the ringleaders to be apprehended and executed, and that he had suspended Faik Pasha from his command with a view to his being brought to a court martial.

Your Excellency will observe that the defeat of the Turkish right wing under the command of the late Mahommed Pasha at Tahir on the 16th June precluded the possibility of myself or any member of my staff being present at Bayazid on the arrival there three days later of the detachment under the command of Faik Pasha advancing from Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 394.

Major-General Sir A. Kemball to Captain McCalmont.

Sir, *Head-quarter Camp, near Hajiveli, July 31, 1877*

REFERRING to your first report from Bayazid to Sir C. Dickson (the copy of which, on receipt, as a precaution against the miscarriage of the original, I forwarded to Constantinople), I herewith inclose in copy, for your private information, a despatch, No. 61, dated 26th instant, which Mr. Consul Zohrab has addressed to Lord Derby, giving details of the atrocities committed by the Kurds on the 19th of June, and of subsequent events near Bayazid up to the period of your joining Ismail Pasha's head-quarters.

Without disclosing the source of your information beyond stating that it is derived from myself, I request that you will read Mr. Zohrab's report verbatim to Ismail Pasha, leaving with him the substance in writing, rendered into Turkish, if he should desire it. You will point out to his Excellency the horror with which such deeds will be regarded by the whole civilized world, the injury that must accrue to the Turkish cause, and the responsibility that will properly devolve upon all Turkish officers concerned in the conduct of military operations in that quarter.

You will invite his Excellency, if so disposed, to explain the culpable negligence of his subordinates in failing to control the action of the irregular levies under their command; and you will report to me whether, and to what extent, of your own knowledge, the orders, which his Excellency Muktar Pasha assures me he at once issued for the condign punishment of the perpetrators of the atrocious acts reported by Mr. Zohrab, have been executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. B. KEMBALL.

No. 395.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 29.*)

(No. 974.)
My Lord, *Therapia, August 21, 1877.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a report from Colonel Lennox upon Turkish women and children, wounded by Russian soldiers, whom he had seen at Shumla.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 395.

Colonel Lennox to Mr. Layard.

Sir, *Varna, August 11, 1877.*

JUST before I left Shumla, on the 17th ultimo, for the south of the Balkans, many Turkish women and children, who had been wounded by the Russians, were brought into Shumla, but I had no time to visit them.

On my return to Shumla I ascertained that Her Britannic Majesty's Consul for the Danube vilayet (Mr. Reade) had been there and reported on the cases; I therefore did not

consider it necessary to see all the wounded, and make a full report on the individuals.

I though it right, however, in order that I might be able to report that I had with my own eyes seen some of the wounded, to visit the hospital at Shumla yesterday morning. Captain Torey, the French Military Attaché, accompanied me. There were plenty of wounded women and children whom I could have inspected, but I satisfied myself with three cases of each description, viz.:—

No. 1.—A girl of eight years of age; sabre-cut in head.
No. 2.—A girl of twelve years of age; lance wound in the thigh.
No. 3.—A girl of five years of age; sabre-cut in head.
No. 4.—A woman; age not asked; lance wound in left thigh.
No. 5.—A woman of about twenty-two; three sword-cuts on head.
No. 6.—A woman (old); sword-cut on left arm, which had made her drop the child she was carrying, which, I was informed, was also wounded, but had since died.

The above six Turks distinctly stated that they were wounded by Russian soldiers, and not by Bulgarians.

I happened to see several other wounded Turkish women and children, who were being discharged cured. The marks of the lance-wounds were, however, distinctly visible.

There are, I may mention, a great number of Turkish women and children who have taken refuge at Shumla, and whose state will be deplorable as soon as the winter comes on. They are at present living on charity, and many, I fear, are already in great want of assistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM LENNOX, *Colonel, R.E.,*
Military Attaché.

No. 396.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August 29.*)

(No. 975.)
Therapia, August 21, 1877.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Adrianople, August 15, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a despatch with its inclosure which Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis has addressed to me relative to the execution in this town, under martial law, of seventeen Bulgarians accused of having taken part in the destruction, on the 24th ultimo, of part of the railway at Hasskioi-Kayadjik, between this and Philippopolis.

These executions have created a very great sensation here, and unfortunately the impression prevails that some of the sufferers were innocent, and that the new Commandant, Djemil Pasha, is determined to make numerous examples at any price, with a view to strike terror into the Bulgarians generally.

I have reason to believe that Djemil Pasha's action in this matter has been the subject of some discussion between him and the Vali, Ibrahim Pasha. The latter proceeded to Constantinople early this morning, in order, it is believed, to make representations on the subject, confidentially and in person, to the Grand Vizier.

I also learn, from a source which I believe to be impartial and well-informed, that Djemil Pasha is now turning his attention to the persons who were arrested last year, with the intention, it is feared, of fastening a charge upon them with the object I have mentioned above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Sir,
Adrianople, August 15, 1877.

I BEG to inclose herewith a list of the names of seventeen persons, tried and executed under martial law in Adrianople from the 9th to the 14th instant, furnished me by the Bulgarian vicar.

These people, who were all Bulgarians, received in the usual manner at the hands of their priest the holy sacrament the night before their execution, but it does not transpire that they made any confession of having taken up arms against the Government, with the exception of those who suffered on the 9th instant. These men acknowledged to having pillaged the Government corn stores at the Kajajik railway station. And Yanko, nicknamed Osmanli, a Bulgarian Tchorbadgi (leading man) of Hasskoi, who suffered on the 13th instant, it is said pleaded guilty to having acted against the Government, but that he was coerced by the Russians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 396.

List of Persons executed under Martial Law in Adrianople.

Thursday, August 9, 1877.

1. BOITCHO ZABREN, of Kajajik, age 30, labourer, leaves widow and 2 children.
2. Petko Denio, of Kajajik, age 40, labourer.
3. Koino Vulko, of Kajajik, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 6 children.
4. Tanasi Raïcho, of Kajajik, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.

Monday, August 13, 1877.

5. Tzibo, of Kajajik, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
6. Peter, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
7. Peter, of Kajajik, age 38, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
8. Petko, of Kajajik, age 45, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
9. Theodor Teknegi, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.
10. Yanko Osmanli, of Hasskoi, age 45, Tchorbagi; leaves a widow.
11. Dimitri, of Kajajik, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.

Tuesday, August 14, 1877.

12. Téno, of Karabounar, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
13. Mino, of Karabounar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
14. Jovan, of Karabounar, age 28, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
15. Theodor, of Karabounar, age 20, labourer.
16. Mirtcho, of Karabounar, age 48, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
17. Gantcho, of Eski-Zaghra, age 35, forest-keeper; leaves widow and 2 children.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Vice-Consul.*

Adrianople, August 15, 1877.

Inclosure 4 in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Sir,
Adrianople, August 16, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency herewith a despatch, with its inclosures, from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Calvert, dated the 6th instant, but which has only reached me to-day.

This despatch relates to the proceedings of the Turkish troops at Karlowa, a

subject which was referred to in my despatches to your Excellency Nos. 92 of the 7th instant and 94 of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 396.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Consul Blunt.

Philippopolis, August 6, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your information, copies of two telegrams which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador under dates, respectively, of the 4th and 5th instant.

The statements made to me by Eshref Bey I can only qualify as impudent untruths. The Mutessarif appears to have been equally deceived by them, as his Excellency informs me that he also telegraphed that officer's report to Constantinople.

From the reports brought yesterday from Carlowa, I deeply regret to say that there can hardly be any doubt that that place has been the scene of much unnecessary bloodshed.

On Thursday last my Greek colleague, hearing that Carlowa was beleaguered by the Turkish troops, sent his cavass to bring away in safety some half-dozen Hellenic subjects living there. They arrived here yesterday.

According to their statements, the regular troops and Bashi-Bazouks, after camping two days at the village of Banya, some two hours from Carlowa, entered the town on Monday last, the 30th ultimo. The irregulars shot or cut down everyone they met in the streets, but committed comparatively few acts of pillage. Towards evening the Mussulman and Jewish inhabitants were summoned by Mahmoud Bey, the officer in command, to quit the town, and were dispatched to Philippopolis. The Turkish force remained in the town till the afternoon of the next day, when they withdrew to Banya. On Wednesday the townspeople received permission from Mahmoud Bey to bury their dead, which they accordingly did.

Nothing remarkable occurred further till about 10 o'clock on Friday morning, when a band of about 500 Circassians coming from Isladi swept down on the town, sacked Christian and Mussulman houses without distinction, and killed a number of people.

Little or no resistance was offered either on Monday or Friday by the inhabitants, one or two desperate individuals may have fired upon the troops, but the bulk of the inhabitants remained passive.

The Greek Vice-Consul's cavass entered Carlowa on Friday afternoon, in company with the Commander of the troops, whom he found at Banya, and who volunteered to accompany him with a battalion of troops. They found the town occupied by the Circassians, and were witnesses to the conduct of the latter. Mahmoud Bey immediately ordered his men to clear the place of these marauders, and his order was executed in a very short time; some of the Circassians were, moreover, made to give up their booty, but most of them, it is said, carried away their plunder. Mahmoud Bey then caused the recovered objects to be heaped up in the principal thoroughfare for recognition by the owners. At the time of the departure of the Greek residents, however, no one had dared to come out of their houses for this purpose.

The number of persons killed on the 30th ultimo is stated by Constantine Stathio, one of the Greeks whom I have examined, at 500, as reported in my telegram of the 5th instant. This, he said, was the number counted on the day when the bodies were buried. This man, however, I learn to-day, is not a Greek subject, but a Bayah of the town of Stanimako; and a respectable Greek resident of Carlowa, Hadji Dimitri by name (who enjoys Hellenic protection), and whom I have also examined, informs me that Stathio took up arms, and was one of the most turbulent characters during the brief Russian occupation of Carlowa: so that Stathio's testimony is not likely to be unprejudiced.

Few or no people appear to have been killed in their houses on the Monday; but during the Circassian raid on Friday, which is said to have lasted five hours, bloodshed seems to have taken place in both streets and houses.

The majority of the victims were men, and not natives of Carlowa, but of surrounding villages, the inhabitants of which had taken refuge there, and, being houseless, fell more easily victims to the Bashi-Bazouks.

A certain number of women and children, I regret to say, appear also to have been killed.

Amongst the victims, it is reported, are a certain Poulioglou, or Kazakoff, and his five sons, relatives of M. Gueroff, lately Russian Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, who appear to have been specially sought out and cut down.

The above facts are all that can be gathered from the Greek residents of Carlowa, who are not in a position to give any clear narrative of what took place, having been during most of the time, between Monday and Thursday, hiding and in mortal terror of their lives.

The Russian detachment which visited Carlowa is variously stated to have numbered between 50 and 200, all Cossacks. They arrived at Carlowa on or about the 23rd ultimo, and finally took their departure on Saturday the 28th July, promising to return. On the same day, hearing of the approach of the Turkish forces, the Bulgarian inhabitants sent, it is said, to Shipka to inform the Russians and implore help, but the Russian General said he was unable to move forward a single man.

While the Russians were at Carlowa, the arming of the Bulgarians at the expense not only of the Mussulman, but of the other non-Bulgarian communities, was systematically carried on. Mussulman, Jewish, and Greek houses were searched, and all their arms and horses taken. The Mussulmans were likewise plundered of their money and valuables by the Christian rabble, and many of them suffered indignities such as beating, being forced to stand upright with their turbans under their arms as a mark of respect to the Cossacks, &c.

This treatment, after the engagement entered into between the Christians, Mussulmans, and Jews of Carlowa, to continue to live on good terms with each other without reference to the result of the Russian invasion, was calculated to exasperate the Mussulmans; and it is not to be wondered at if the latter should now, as they have done, exaggerate the misdeeds of their Bulgarian fellow-townsmen whereby, it is to be feared, the authorities may be led into employing undeserved severity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 396.

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 4, 1877, 6 P.M.*

INFORMATION given me by aide-de-camp concerning Carlowa turns out utterly false. Governor has just received news that inhabitants have fled to Kalofer, where there is strong insurgent force, supported by a small force of Russians.

Most active steps are taken by authorities here to prevent acts of pillage in villages between this and Carlowa. Soldiers and irregulars bringing in booty are at once put in irons.

News received here that during Russian occupation of Zaghra, which lasted eleven days, 100 Turks were put to death daily, making a total of 1,100 executions. Town said to be completely destroyed by Turks, and vast numbers of inhabitants killed.

It is reported to-day that Russians have been driven out of Kyzanlik; but this needs confirmation.

Inclosure 7 in No. 396

Acting Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, August 5, 1877, 2 P.M.*

GREEK subjects coming to-day from Carlowa report that 500 Bulgarians were killed, chiefly men, on Monday last, and state that, on Friday, a body of Circassians, coming from Isladi, fell upon town, pillaged houses, and killed every one they met, until driven out by regular troops, who came to the rescue.

Inclosure 8 in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 16, 1877.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to address your Excellency to-day two telegrams, worded as follows:—

"10 A.M.—Between 9th and 14th instant seventeen Bulgarians were publicly executed here under martial law. Thirty more were executed this morning. Great consternation prevails. I wrote to your Excellency on this subject yesterday. Leniency desirable."

"2 P.M.—Nine Bulgarians of good standing, natives of Yeni-Zaghra, who were saved from Bashi-Bazouks and brought away with their families by the military authorities on 15th July, were arrested to-day. Families fear these men will be hanged to-morrow morning, and with lamentations beg me to ask your Excellency to intercede."

With reference to the above I beg to forward herewith a despatch, with its inclosure, which Mr. Vice-Consul Dupuis has addressed to me, containing some particulars regarding the military executions this morning.

I spoke to the Vali Ibrahim Pasha the day before his Excellency left for Constantinople regarding the proceedings of the court-martial here, and I have also since had a conversation with the Mudvin of the Vilayet and Acting Vali, Sumri Effendi, on the same subject. The latter and the other civil authorities appeared to me to regret and disapprove the way in which numbers of persons are now being daily seized and sent to the gallows within the space of a few hours, thereby creating general uneasiness and alarm in the public mind. The civil authorities, however, gave me to understand that they could in no way interfere to prevent these proceedings.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 396.

Vice-Consul Dupuis to Consul Blunt.

Adrianople, August 16, 1877.

Sir,

FOLLOWING my despatch of yesterday, I beg leave to inclose herewith a further list of names of thirty Bulgarians, executed this morning under martial law.

My endeavours to ascertain from the authorities the nature of the crimes for which these men suffered were not successful, but from fragmentary intelligence picked up, and from the placards on the prisoners' breasts, I learn that some of the sentences ran as follows: "for having been clerk to a Russian regiment," "for having ferried Russians across rivers," "for having ravished and killed Turkish women," &c.

I need scarcely say that so revolting a sight as the exhibition for upwards of eight hours, the corpses of so many individuals swinging at the same time in all the principal thoroughfares of this city, has simply seared the public mind, and struck everybody with consternation and alarm, especially as it was said yesterday, that instructions had been received from the Porte to cease carrying out capital punishments.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS.

Inclosure 10 in No. 396.

List of Persons executed under Martial Law in Adrianople on the 16th August, 1877.

1. SIDER, of Ghermenli, age 35; leaves widow and 2 children; labourer.
2. Gospodin, of Ghermenli, age 30; leaves widow and 1 children; labourer.
3. Tasho, of Ghermenli, age 40; leaves widow and 3 children; labourer.
4. Dentcho, of Meriehler, age 40; labourer.
5. Gako, of Eski-Zaghra, age 40, grocer; leaves widow and 3 children.
6. Anghel, of Meriehler, age 30; labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
7. Iovan, of Kajajik, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.

8. Velko, of Ghermenli, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 5 children.
9. Theodore, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
10. Heisto, of Karabounar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
11. Lothé, of Karabounar, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.
12. Lothé, of Karabounar, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
13. Mirtcho, of Ghermenli, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
14. Theodore, of Karabounar, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
15. Slavi, of Ghermenli, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
16. Velio, of Seimen, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
17. Koltcho Nicola, of Ghermenli, age 30, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
18. Petko, of Karabounar, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
19. Voltcho, of Ghermenli, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
20. Gospodin, of Ghermenli, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
21. Domir, of Hasskoi, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 3 children.
22. Anghel, of Ghermenli, age 28, labourer, leaves widow and 3 children.
23. Haggi Anden Sapungi, son of Tenoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 45, notable; leaves widow and 3 children.
24. Heistotholo Papalchoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 30, shopkeeper; leaves widow and 3 children.
25. Ivancho Ivanchoff, of Eski-Zaghra, age 18; servant of Haggi Anden.
26. Strati, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
27. Dhelo, of Hasskoi, age 35, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
28. Heisto, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 4 children.
29. Dimitri, of Meritchler, age 40, labourer; leaves widow and 2 children.
30. Gospodino, of Ghermenli, age 32, labourer; leaves widow and 1 child.

(Signed) J. HUTTON DUPUIS, *Vice-Consul.*

Adrianople, August 16, 1877.

Inclosure 11 in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

Adrianople, August 18, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith the translated copy of a telegram from Suleiman Pasha, of which I addressed a summary to your Excellency to-day by telegraph, relative to Russian and Bulgarian barbarities at Lagahanly, a Turkish village situated between Hain-Boghaz and Kyzanlik.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 12 in No. 396.

Suleiman Pasha to Consul Blunt.

(Translation.)

(Telegraphic.) *August* $\frac{4}{16}$, 1877.

CAPTAIN GAMBIER, who accompanied the Imperial army to Hain-Boghaz, having returned from an excursion which he had made to the village of Oklanly (Lagahanly), reports to me as follows:—

He saw, he says, with his own eyes at the above village the bodies of 120 Mussulmans who had been massacred in the most barbarous manner by Bulgarians and Cossacks. A young and beautiful woman with her throat cut had been thrown naked into a stream. Other corpses were left lying about, and others again had been thrown into wells. In one well in particular a whole family was found, women and children together; to judge by the good quality of their clothing and the embroidery with which it was ornamented, this family must have been well-to-do.

An old Turkish woman, moreover, told the same gentleman that the Cossacks and Bulgarians shut up in a house the handsomest women and girls whose male relatives had been murdered, and after subjecting them to outrage during the space of ten days burnt them alive in the house along with fifteen men whom they also put into it.

The same gentleman was also a witness of the proceedings of the Bulgarians, when, upon the approach of the Imperial army towards the Hain Pass, they drove off to the

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Balkans all the Mussulman females between the ages of three and thirty. As regards the men above-mentioned, he saw that they had been massacred after having been placed together in a line. Many other Mussulmans besides these were massacred, but the gentleman above-named had not time to make further researches.

The above harrowing facts have been further verified by Captain Fife, who accompanies the Imperial camp; as also by the correspondents of the "Morning Post," "Times," and "Daily Telegraph," who have communicated them to their respective journals.

Inclosure 13 in No. 396.

Consul Blunt to Mr. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Adrianople, August* 18, 1877.

SULEIMAN PASHA telegraphs that Captain Gambier has had ocular demonstration of the following facts which have also been verified by Captain Fife and correspondents of "Morning Post" and "Daily Telegraph" at Lagabanli:—120 Mussulmans, men, women, and children massacred by Bulgarians and Cossacks; bodies found in wells and lying about. An old man who survived told Captain Gambier that the handsomest girls and women whose male relations had been killed were shut up in a house and dishonoured during ten days by Bulgarians and Cossacks; they were then burnt alive with fifteen men, Turks. Captain Gambier saw corpses of men who had been collected together and massacred in a line; he also saw that when Turkish army approached Hain-Boghaz the Bulgarians carried over the Balkans a number of Mussulman females from childhood to thirty years of age.

No. 397.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 976.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1877.

My Lord,

I AM informed by Hobart Pasha that the emigration of the Abkhaz tribe from the Circassian coast is taking the proportions of an exodus. The Turks have to remove, to save from the vengeance of the Russians, above 50,000 people, with about 100,000 head of cattle. It would take at least two months, Hobart Pasha thinks, to transport them to the Turkish coasts in the Black Sea, where they are to be settled.

Vice-Consul Biliotti has, in his despatches sent to your Lordship, described the arrival of some of these emigrants at Trebizond. According to his account, they seem to be of a much more peaceable disposition than the Circassians, and likely to prove a useful population to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 398.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 981.) *Therapia, August* 22, 1877.

My Lord,

AMONGST the victims of Russian and Bulgarian outrages at Kyzanlik and Eski-Zaghra were the Jewish inhabitants of those towns. I have transmitted to your Lordship a telegram from Consul Blunt, relating to the treatment of the Jews of the first-named place. I have now the honour to inclose a statement made to the Sultan by one Bohor, a Jewish native of Eski-Zaghra, who escaped from the town, and on his arrival at Constantinople was received by His Majesty, and made a report to him as to the sufferings of his brethren. The Turks have generally treated the Jews with kindness, and have afforded them protection against Christian persecution.

It is to be hoped that Bohor's account of what occurred is exaggerated, but there cannot be a doubt that the Jews have been subject to the same cruel ill-treatment as the Mussulmans, which would tend to show that the hatred of the Bulgarians for the

Mahommedans proceeds more from religious animosity and prejudice than from any other motive. The Bulgarians cannot certainly complain that they have been misgoverned or oppressed by the Jews.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 398.

Heads of Information respecting the Atrocities by the Russians and Bulgarians at Eski-Zaghra, contained in the Report of Bohor, a Jewish inhabitant—an eye-witness—published in the "Jewish National," and similar to the Statement he laid before the Sultan in his audience.

ON the 20th July, the inhabitants of Eski-Zaghra, forming 15,000 families, upon receiving intelligence of the arrival of a Russian force in the vicinity of their city, taking into consideration their defenceless position, came to the resolution of sending a deputation, headed by the Kaïmakam (Turkish Governor of the town), to meet the Russian General, and make their submission to his authority. His Excellency, who was then at two hours' distance, accompanied by about 400 Russian soldiers and 5,000 Bulgarians gathered in the vicinity of Kyzanlik, received these delegates with great affability, and promised that, in the event of surrender of arms of all descriptions by the whole population, that their lives and property would be spared.

In consequence of this solemn engagement on his part, every weapon in the city, down to a kitchen knife, were brought by the Kaïmakam in the square in front of Eski-Djamee, and there consigned to the General, who shortly after had them distributed among the Bulgarians that accompanied him, as well as the Bulgarian inhabitants of the town who applied for weapons. Having received twenty-four hours' authorization from the General to sack the city, these Bulgarians rushed on like tigers in every direction, cutting down indiscriminately every one they met in the street, breaking into houses, ravishing women, ripping up the abdomen of those in the family-way, and in several cases hanging and impaling those who had been the victims of their lust.

Poor and rich Israelite families were indiscriminately massacred and robbed by these fiends, some of the latter, whose wealth was valued at 5,000 Turkish lire, amongst whom may be mentioned Yakob Djin, who died pierced through and through with bayonets. All the synagogues were profaned, schools injured, all the sacred books torn or thrown into the fire; the mosques and principal konaks were burned down.

At the expiration of the twenty-four hours the General ordered the pillage to cease, and placed the administration of the city in the hands of Bulgarian authorities of his own choice. The Kaïmakam and employés thrown into prison, and the military chief with the 160 men under him sent into Russia as war prisoners. An order was issued forbidding the wearing of turbans or even the fez, and requiring every one to put on the Bulgarian kalpak.

The Jewish population consisting of 1,030 families, equivalent to 6,000 souls, received orders to keep within doors, and on no account whatever to appear in the streets, no steps being taken for supplying them either with food or water. The mortality during the ten days this imprisonment lasted was awful, especially amongst women and children. Their parents had to bury them in their gardens. The adults had for their only food dry beans and Indian corn. Houses were daily broken into by the Bulgarians, and their inmates were tortured to give up the property they were supposed to possess.

Suleiman Pasha, having taken possession of the city, ordered its evacuation in the brief delay of two hours, so that the Jewish population was placed under the necessity of leaving everything behind, whatever had escaped the pillage by the Bulgarians became the prey of the flames, which destroyed all their dwelling-houses. They had to find their way, carrying their children and invalids on their backs, to Karabounar, where, thanks to the Sultan's kind intervention, waggons were placed at their disposal for their removal on to Adrianople. Many women, who were prematurely confined during the journey, died on the road.

The Circassians who escorted these waggons supplied the emigrants with biscuit taken from their rations, and saved many lives.

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ALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE

No. 399.

General Menabrea to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

35, *Queen's Gate, Londres, le* 29 *Août*, 1877.

DANS une des dernières séances de la Chambre des Communes, Mr. Bourke, en réponse à une interpellation de Mr. Dilke, déclarait que de nombreuses exceptions au blocus établi par la Turquie sur les côtes Russes de la Mer Noire étaient parvenues à la connaissance du Gouvernement Britannique; par conséquent on pouvait mettre en doute que le blocus fût effectif.

De nouveaux faits venaient confirmer cette opinion, car le Gouvernement du Roi d'Italie recevait une liste de vingt-quatre bâtiments, sous pavillon Grec (dont il a envoyé les noms à l'Ambassade d'Italie à Londres), qui sont sortis et rentrés dans le port de Taganrog depuis le 17 Mai dernier jusqu'au 11 Août courant.

D'autre part la Chambre de Commerce de Gênes adressait de vives réclamations au Gouvernement du Roi pour les dommages que le blocus portait à la marine Génoise, qui ne pouvait plus continuer son commerce traditionnel dans ces parages, et dont deux bâtiments étaient restés enfermés dans la Mer d'Azoff, après l'expiration du terme fixé par la Sublime Porte.

Vu les faits précédemment exposés, son Excellence le Commandeur Melegari a chargé le Représentant de Sa Majesté le Roi à Constantinople de faire à la Sublime Porte des représentations formelles et péremptoires sur cet état de choses, qui intéresse autant le commerce de la Grande Bretagne que celui de l'Italie elle-même.

Mais afin d'arriver à un résultat pratique, il serait nécessaire que la démarche faite par le Gouvernement du Roi fut prise en considération par le Gouvernement Ottoman avant la clôture de la saison propice à la navigation de la Mer Noire; et pour juger de la chance de succès qu'elle peut avoir, son Excellence le Commandeur Melegari a exprimé le désir de savoir si le Gouvernement de la Reine a lui-même adressé à Constantinople des représentations analogues à celles du Gouvernement Italien, en conformité des déclarations faites à la Chambre des Communes par le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat des Affaires Etrangères.

En conséquence, le Général Menabrea a l'honneur de s'adresser à la courtoisie habituelle de son Excellence le Comte de Derby, en le priant de vouloir bien lui fournir les renseignements nécessaires à ce sujet pour le mettre à même de répondre à son Gouvernement.

Il saisit, &c.

No. 400.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 374.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 28, 1877, 7 P.M.

PORTE states officially that Russians attacked the strong position of Alikiri Gebel, commanding Russian entrenchments and line of retreat towards Gabrova, for three consecutive days, and were repulsed, leaving 4,000 killed and 2,000 muskets.

Although the last position of the Russians in Shipka Pass has not yet been taken, Suleiman Pasha is confident that it will now have to be abandoned.

No. 401.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(No. 375. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 29, 1877, 11·30 A.M.

I HAVE been told (but the report wants confirmation) that the two Russian Princes, a brother and nephew of the Emperor, it is said, who were with the Russian forces in the Shipka Pass, are prisoners, and that arrangements are being made to bring them to Constantinople. I am assured that two private railway carriages belonging to the Sultan have been ordered to Adrianople to receive them.

No. 402.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August* 29, 1877, 2 P.M.

OFFICIAL despatch dated Gorny, Tuesday, August 28, 5 P.M., reports as follows:—

"Since yesterday firing on Shipka has nearly ceased. This morning all is quiet. Our troops maintain their positions. Turks have taken shelter behind surrounding mountains out of our cannon-shot. We have 2,480 wounded, including 95 officers; number of killed not known. All quiet before Plevna, Loftcha, and Osman Bazar."

No. 403.

Consul-General White to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, August* 29, 1877, *noon.*

CONSIDERABLE uncertainty prevails as to progress made in the negotiations with Russia, the latter Power desiring immediate co-operation, while many of the Prince's military and ministerial advisers recommend delay, urging, against personal inclinations and engagements of Prince Milan, the backwardness of Servian preparations for war.

Sent to Therapia.

No. 404.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(*Received August* 29.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Confidential.) *Bucharest, August* 29, 1877.

DURING the last eight days' fighting, Russians have lost upwards of 8,000 killed and wounded.

At Gabrova, being threatened by Mahemet Ali Pasha's left wing, they burnt provisions and stores to value of 40,000*l.*, destined for forces in the Shipka Pass.

Plevna will probably be attacked to-morrow by the Grand Duke, with 70,000 Russians and 30,000 Roumanians.

Osman Pasha has been reinforced by 15,000 infantry, sent him through the mountains by Suleiman Pasha. At Plevna, Turks have 70,000 men and 200 guns, including siege pieces arrived lately from Widdin. The position has been immensely strengthened during last three weeks.

No. 405.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Adams.

(No. 504. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1877.

Sir,

THE French Ambassador having called upon me this afternoon, I took the opportunity to ask of him whether his Government would be disposed to make representations to Servia with the view of dissuading the Principality from engaging in a second war with Turkey. I said that there seemed little doubt that the Servian Government were meditating hostilities, and that the British Agent at Belgrade had been instructed to remonstrate strongly against such a course. I had, however, no great hope that his efforts would be successful.

The Marquis d'Harcourt told me that the information received by his Government as to the intentions of Servia tallied with mine, and that the French Agent had already been instructed to address unofficial representations to Prince Milan's Government on the subject. His Excellency said that he would ask the Due Decazes whether he would take any further steps for the same purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 406.

The Earl of Derby to Musurus Pasha.

(Private.)
Dear Musurus Pasha, *Foreign Office, August* 29, 1877.

SINCE my conversation with you on the subject of the complaints of your Government against that of Greece, I have received a telegram from our Minister at Athens, of which I think it as well that you should know the substance.

Mr. Stuart states that M. Tricoupi entirely denies the accusations brought against the Greek Government respecting encounters near the frontier, and affirms that no Greek band had crossed the frontier; that the affair near Trikala, of which your Government complain, was a conflict between a Greek and a Mussulman village, in which brigands may have taken part, but that the Greek troops at once arrested and imprisoned those who escaped into Greece, and restored the cattle to the Turkish authorities.

Mr. Stuart adds that the Greek Government appear to him to be anxious to avoid giving any just cause of offence to the Porte at present; and he expresses his opinion that it will be well to inquire carefully into facts before assuming that they have committed or connived at acts of hostility on the frontier.

I should be glad if you would bring the above to the knowledge of your Government, as I prefer to learn their opinion on the assurances thus received before making the representation to the Government of Greece which Server Pasha desires.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 407.

Server Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Earl of Derby by Musurus Pasha, August 30.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 28 *Août*, 1877.

UN télégramme du Gouverneur-Général d'Andrinople en date du $\frac{9}{21}$ Août, 1877, rapporte ce qui suit: Quatorze Israélites de Kézanlik, massacrés par les Russes et les Bulgares, ont été enterrés dans la synagogue, à l'exception d'un seul qui a été dévoré par les chiens. Parmi ces malheureux se trouvaient une femme et une fille de quinze ans nommée Thodi Braha, d'une grande beauté. Elle a été égorgée après avoir été violée par huit ou dix Russes et Bulgares. Quarante-trois Israélites de Kézanlik, hommes et femmes, la plupart blessés ou malades, ont été sauvés avec les Musulmans par les troupes Impériales. Les autres, au nombre de 300, ont été emmenés par l'ennemi dans les Passes de Chipka.

Un télégramme du Caïmacam de Loftcha du $\frac{11}{23}$ Août, signale au Ministère de l'Intérieur un acte de la plus épouvantable brutalité qui donne la mesure des instincts pervers et barbares que la présence et l'exemple des Russes a développés dans la population Bulgare: Un pâtre Bulgare, qui était depuis quinze ans au service du nommé Ahmed Agha ben Abdoullah, habitant du village Granititcha, district de Selvi, ayant appris l'approche des Russes, s'arma et pénétra soudain dans la maison de son maître, accompagné de quelques autres Bulgares. "Effendi," dit le pâtre à Ahmed Agha, "depuis quinze ans que je suis à ton service je guettais un moment propice; le voilà arrivé." A ces mots il se saisit de la fille de son maître, âgée de douze ans environ, pour attenter à sa pudeur. Il proposa à ses parents de se faire eux-mêmes les aides de son acte de violence. Sur leur refus, il accabla le père de mauvais traitements; puis il consomma son attentat sur la jeune fille, et, comme la malheureuse poussait des gémissements et des cris plaintifs, son bourreau la frappa du couteau dont il était armé et lui fit une large blessure au-dessous du sein gauche. Enfin, il massacra le pauvre père et aurait fait subir le même sort à la mère si elle n'avait réussi à s'échapper. Lorsque ce monstre eut quitté la maison, la femme d'Ahmed Agha, assisté de quelques voisins, y rentra pour porter secours à la malheureuse jeune fille qui fut trouvée vivante encore. L'une et l'autre ont été transportées à Loftcha, où l'on soigne la victime. Ce qui précède est la déposition faite par les deux femmes au Général de Brigade Rifat Pacha, en présence de plusieurs assistants profondément émus de cet épouvantable récit. La victime est à l'hôpital de Loftcha, où les médecins lui prodiguent leurs soins pour obtenir sa guérison.

No. 408.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 30.)

(No. 376.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August* 29, 1877, 10·30 P.M.

THE report alluded to in my telegram No. 375 is not confirmed. The Russian force at Shipka has not surrendered, and from the telegram received this afternoon it would appear that Suleiman has not yet succeeded in cutting off Russian communications with Gabrova.

No. 409.

Mr. Vivian to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 269. Political.)
My Lord, *Alexandria, August* 24, 1877.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 259 of the 16th instant, I believe the emigration of Greek volunteers from Egypt is still going on, but to a smaller extent and with greater secresy than before.

I hear that from 120 to 150 volunteers are waiting to leave.

The Khedive has publicly expressed his great annoyance at this movement, and his determination to apply most strictly in Egypt any measure that the Porte may enact for the expulsion of Greeks from the Ottoman Empire upon an outbreak of war with Greece.

I suspect that this has prevented many Greek houses from subscribing to the movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. VIVIAN.

No. 410.

Sir A. Paget to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 324.)
My Lord, *Siena, August* 28, 1877.

I HAD the honour to receive last evening your Lordship's telegram dated yesterday, 6·35 P.M., giving the substance of your Lordship's instructions to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, relative to the reported preparations of Servia to declare war against Turkey, and I inclose herewith a copy of a note, marked Confidential, which I have addressed to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs upon this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 410.

Sir A. Paget to M. Melegari.

(Confidential.)
M. le Ministre, *Siena, August* 28, 1877.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in reply to information received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade, to the effect that the Servian Government is seriously preparing to declare war against Turkey, the Earl of Derby has instructed him to inform the Servian Government that Her Majesty's Government would view with much concern a renewal of hostilities between Servia and Turkey, and has directed him at the same to remind that Government that it was in a great degree owing to the endeavours of Her Majesty's Government that an armistice was accorded to Servia which saved her from a crushing defeat, and ultimately secured to Servia the enjoyment of peace.

Mr. White is consequently desired to represent to the Servian Government that Her Majesty's Government would consider that an unprovoked violation of engagements then entered into by Servia would be a breach of faith, not only towards the Porte but towards England, and would render it impossible for Her Majesty's Government to support the

claims of Servia in any discussions which may take place at the conclusion of the present war.

In the firm conviction that the Government of His Italian Majesty, who have consistently expressed the desire that the present war should be confined within its actual limits, and who were also instrumental in putting an end to the last conflict between Servia and Turkey, will fully share the views of Her Majesty's Government as above expressed, and be ready to join their efforts to those of Her Majesty's Government in dissuading Servia from committing any act of aggression against Turkey, I venture to express the hope that your Excellency will enable me at your earliest convenience to give an assurance to this effect to the Earl of Derby.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 411.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mansfield to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, August 30, 1877.*

THE Turks have placed guns in a position which commands the Russian works at the Shipka Pass; the latter will probably have to be abandoned. Severe fighting going on, loss on both sides not less than 20,000. In consequence of the above the attack on Plevna will be put off, if not given up.

No. 412.

Lord A. Loftus to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, August 30, 1877.*

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS telegraphs as follows, dated Gorny Studien, Wednesday August 29, 7 P.M.:—

"All tranquil at Shipka. No Turkish troops within reach. Unknown whether they intend to renew attack, to retire, or make flank movement. We have 98 officers and 2,633 men wounded. On side of Roustchouk enemy advanced small force on Sadina, but were repulsed, as also a similar advance on Kaly Kioi was repulsed. On Lower Danube cavalry skirmishes, when a Turkish convoy was captured, with 96 prisoners. On side of Plevna and Loftcha all quiet."

No. 413.

Consul Ricketts to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tiflis, August 30, 1877.*

TWENTY thousand new troops *en route*. They will begin to pass this on the 1st of September. The total of the last lot arrived is exactly as I reported in my telegram of the 9th instant. My wife leaves to-morrow with despatches.

No. 414.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 377.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877, 10·30 A.M.*

SULTAN spoke to me yesterday about Servia, complaining that the Prince had received a considerable sum of money from Russia, that bridge was being prepared to cross the Drina and other preparations made for an attack on Turkey. His Majesty requested me to bring these facts to the notice of Her Majesty's Government, and to say that he appealed to them to prevent Servia making this wanton aggression, as he had made peace in order to show his desire to please England when his troops might have taken Belgrade. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has requested Austrian

Ambassador to answer categorically whether Austria will now permit Russian troops to pass through Servia, and what course she will pursue if the Servians attack Turkey. His Excellency reminded Count Zichy that some time ago he gave assurances that his Government would permit neither. Count Zichy has telegraphed to Vienna for the answers he is to give.

It is intended to give Hobart Pasha command of a squadron to proceed to Greek waters unless Greek Government give distinct pledge that it will not commit hostile acts against Turkey.

Fighting at Shipka Pass still continues and losses on both sides are very heavy. Reinforcements have been sent to Suleiman Pasha, who is confident of success, and yesterday advanced troops to within two hours of Gabrova.

No. 415.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31, 2 P.M.)

(No. 378.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877, noon.*

PORTE states that severe fighting took place yesterday near Kara Hassan, and that the Russians were completely defeated and driven with much loss across the Lom and out of their positions to Popkeui.

No. 416.

Mr. Layard to the Earl of Derby.—(Received August 31.)

(No. 379. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, August 31, 1877.*

TURKISH Commander-in-chief of the Danube has requested Italian Consul to withdraw from Rustchuk, as his presence there is of very grave inconvenience. Italian Government have ordered him to remain, unless removed by force; and, in that case, to protest, to remove archives, and to proceed to Rome. Italian Minister entirely disapproves of instructions given to Consul, but having been peremptorily ordered to conform to them, can do nothing. He tells me that of late his Government seem to be desirous of picking a quarrel with the Porte. Pray do not allude in any way to Count Corti if you communicate with the Italian Government on this subject; the facts as regards the Consul are mentioned in a despatch from Consul Reade sent by last messenger. All the other Consuls have withdrawn from Rustchuk.

No. 417.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 480.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 31, 1877.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 962 of the 20th instant, informing me that you had again brought to the serious attention of the Porte the shocking excesses committed by the Circassian irregular troops, and urged upon it the necessity of adopting immediate measures to put a stop to them, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your Excellency's proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 418.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 481.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, August 31, 1877.

HER Majesty's Government approve your having addressed a private note to the Grand Vizier, representing the importance of treating the Bulgarian prisoners with leniency and of preventing hasty executions, in consequence of information which your

Excellency had received from Consul Blunt, as reported in your despatch No. 956 of the 18th instant, that nine Bulgarians of good standing, natives of Yeni-Zaghra, had been arrested, and that there were fears entertained of their speedy execution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 419.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 482.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1877.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 973 of the 21st instant, I have to request that you will convey to Sir A. Kemball the approval of Her Majesty's Government with respect to the instructions given by him to Captain McCalmont on the subject of the atrocities committed by the Kurds at Bayazid.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 420.

The Earl of Derby to Mr. Layard.

(No. 483.) *Foreign Office, August* 31, 1877.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 970 of the 21st instant, on the subject of the remonstrance addressed by the German Ambassador to the Porte, respecting the alleged violation by the Turkish troops of the Convention of Geneva, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your having represented to Server Pasha the importance of taking every possible measure to prevent the recurrence of such acts as the Russians allege to have been committed by the Turkish soldiers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) DERBY.

END.